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Physical anhedonia: An endogenous phenotype in childhood onset bipolar affective disorder

Pawan Arun Khadse

National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences, India

Physical anhedonia (PA) has been recognized as an endophenotype and a candidate symptom in schizophrenia in multiple studies. There is no study done to investigate this measure in childhood onset bipolar disorder. In current study thirty patients of childhood onset bipolar disorder, 30 of their first-degree relatives, and 30 normal subjects were assessed using Chapman's Revised Physical Anhedonia Scale. We hypothesized that children with bipolar disorder would obtain higher scores on these scales than their relatives and the controls, and we expected the group of relatives to score more defiantly than the normal controls. In our study, the physical anhedonia scale could not differentiate bipolar patients from their unaffected relatives or normal subjects as there was no significant difference in PA scores across the three groups. Further, Physical anhedonia turned out to be a stable trait in children with bipolar disorder and no significant difference could be found in clinical characteristics of anhedonic and hedonic patients. Also, physical anhedonia was not associated with an increased familial risk for bipolar disorder. These results imply that unlike in schizophrenia physical anhedonia cannot be regarded as an endophenotype in childhood onset bipolar disorder. Further, as physical anhedonia doesn't identifies a homogeneous clinical or familial sub-group, it cannot be considered a candidate symptom in childhood onset bipolar disorder. Thus, we can conclude that physical anhedonia can be a useful endophenotypic measure to differentiate childhood onset bipolar disorder from schizophrenia.

Biography

Pawan Arun Khadse has completed his DPM (Diploma in psychological medicine) from Central Institute of Psychiatry (CIP), Ranchi, India. It is a premier research & training institute of psychiatry in India. Presently he is pursuing MD in psychiatry at National Institute Of Mental Health And Neurosciences (NIMHANS), Bangalore, India. NIMHANS is considered as an institute of national importance by government of India. Author has been a rank holder in various university examinations. Child psychiatry and Addiction medicine are the research areas of his interest. At present he is conducting a fMRI plus MRS study in alcoholics.

pawankhadse@gmail.com

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