

A MULTICENTRE STUDY ON ADULT ATTENTION-DEFICIT/HYPERACTIVITY DISORDER IN SUBJECTS WITH AFFECTIVE DISORDERS: ROLE OF PERSONALITY TRAITS AND CLINICAL IMPLICATIONS

*M. Di Nicola*¹, *L. Sala*², *L. Romo*^{2,3}, *V. Catalano*¹, *D. Tedeschi*¹, *C. Even*², *C. Dubertret*⁴, *M. Mazza*¹, *G. Martinotti*⁵, *A. Callea*⁶, *J.D. Guelfi*², *F. Rouillon*^{2,7}, *L. Janiri*¹, *P. Gorwood*^{2,7}

¹Department of Psychiatry, Catholic University Medical School, Rome, Italy, ²CMME, Sainte-Anne Hospital, Paris Descartes University, ³University Paris Ouest Nanterre La Défense, Laboratoire Evaclipsy, Paris, ⁴Louis Mourier University Hospital, Colombe, France, ⁵Department of Neuroscience and Imaging, Chair of Psychiatry, G. D'Annunzio University, Chieti, ⁶Science of Education, LUMSA University, Rome, Italy, ⁷Centre of Psychiatry and Neurosciences, INSERM U 894, Paris, France

Background: A significant comorbidity between attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) and affective disorders has been consistently reported in adults. Less data regarding the role of personality traits, and the influence of ADHD co-occurrence on clinical characteristics and outcome of mood disorders are currently available.

Methods: The sample consisted of 296 subjects, divided into three homogeneous groups according to demographic characteristics: 106 subjects diagnosed with major depressive disorder, 92 with bipolar disorders and 98 healthy controls. ADHD diagnosis was based on DSM-IV-TR criteria. Childhood and adult ADHD features were measured with the Wender Utah Rating Scale (WURS), the Adult ADHD Self-rating Scale (ASRS) and the Brown Attention Deficit Disorder Scale (ADD). The Hospital Anxiety and Depression Scale (HAD) and the Revised NEO Personality Inventory (NEO-PI-R) were also administered to the clinical groups, in order to investigate depressive/anxious symptoms and personality dimensions.

Results: The prevalence of adult ADHD in subjects with bipolar disorders or major depressive disorder was 22.0% and 8.5% respectively ($p < .001$), compared to 3.1% in healthy controls. Significant associations between personality traits, depressive/anxious symptoms and ADHD features were found.

Discussion: The present study emphasises the close relationship between affective disorders, especially bipolar disorders, and ADHD in adults. Our findings support the need to assess subjects with mood disorders in the clinical setting for possible co-existing ADHD and to further investigate personality traits to better understand the etiology of affective disorders and ADHD co-occurrence.