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PROSPECTIVE MEMORY PERFORMANCE IN CHINESE PATIENTS WITH BIPOLAR AFFECTIVE DISORDER

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Introduction: Persons suffering from bipolar affective disorder have a wide range of cognitive deficits, but there have been limited understanding of prospective memory performance. Time-based prospective memory is remembering to perform an action at a specific time, whereas event-based prospective memory is remembering to perform an action when an external cue appears.

Objectives: Assess the time-based and event-based prospective memory performance in Chinese persons diagnosed with bipolar affective disorder.

Aims: Identify factors associated with prospective memory performance.

Methods: A sample of 40 persons diagnosed with bipolar affective disorder were recruited from a psychiatric outpatient clinic. All participants completed the Cambridge Prospective Memory Test, Rivermead Behavioral Memory Test, Test of Nonverbal Intelligence - Third Edition, the Young Mania Rating Scale and Hamilton Rating Scale for Depression.

Results: The mean total score of the Cambridge Prospective Memory Test of persons diagnosed with bipolar affective disorder was 24.4 ± 7.0 . Time-based prospective memory performance was worse than event-based PM task. The Cambridge Prospective Memory Test total score was associated with the Hamilton Rating Scale for Depression score and Rivermead Behavioral Memory Test score. The performance of time-based prospective memory tasks was associated with the Hamilton Rating Scale for Depression score, and the performance of event-based prospective memory tasks was associated with the Rivermead Behavioral Memory Test total score.

Conclusions: Persons diagnosed with bipolar affective disorder are found to have worse time-based than event-based prospective memory performance. The importance for everyday functioning and independent living needs to be explored in future studies.