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## THE EFFECTS OF CHILDHOOD TRAUMA ON PSYCHOTIC SYMPTOMS IN BIPOLAR DISORDER

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**Introduction:** Although history of childhood trauma is present in nearly 50% of bipolar patients, the effects of childhood trauma on the course of bipolar disorder are rarely investigated. Thus, we aimed to investigate the effects of childhood trauma on psychotic symptoms seen in patients with bipolar disorder.

**Methods:** One-hundred DSM-IV-TR diagnosed bipolar patients who were either manic or depressive were recruited from inpatient units of Bakirkoy Research and Training Hospital for Psychiatry, Neurology and Neurosurgery. Patients were initially evaluated by Young Mania Rating Scale (YMRS), Montgomery-Asperg Depression Rating Scale (MADRS), Scales for Assessment of Positive Symptoms. Patients were also evaluated by Childhood Trauma Questionnaire (CTQ) and Dissociative Experiences Scale in euthymia which was defined by scores of < 7 in YMRS, < 4 in MADRS

**Results:** There were no differences between the patients with and without a history of psychotic episode in terms of age at onset, duration of illness and episode characteristics. Patients with a history of psychotic episode were hospitalized more. CTQ physical abuse scores were higher in male comparing to female. CTQ sexual abuse scores were higher in female comparing to male. CTQ emotional abuse, physical neglect, physical abuse and total scores were higher in patients who had at least one psychotic episode in lifetime than in patients without a history of psychotic episode.

**Conclusion:** The history of childhood trauma should be investigated and therapeutic interventions for childhood trauma should be added to the standard treatment plan of bipolar patients.