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Neurocognitive Functioning in Depressed Bipolar and Unipolar Patients: a Romanian Sample.

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Introduction: Neurocognitive deficit is present in both recurrent depressive disorder and bipolar disorder, both during the acute episode and euthymia.

Objectives: Identifying differences in neurocognitive functioning of depressive bipolar, depressive unipolar patients and a healthy control group.

Methods: This study was conducted in Timisoara, Romania, between 2009 and 2013 and consists of inpatients from the Timisoara Psychiatric Clinic, diagnosed with either bipolar disorder (n=65) or recurrent depressive disorder (n=87), according to ICD-10 criteria and a healthy control group (n=70). For assessing neurocognitive functioning we used the d2 Test of Attention and the Rey verbal memory test.

Results: We found statistically significant differences ($p < 0.001$) between the patient groups and the control group regarding 'Total Number of Items Processed' (TN), 'Percentage of Errors' (E%) and 'Concentration Performance' (CP). We found no significant statistical differences between the two patient groups regarding the aforementioned parameters.

Conclusions: During depressive episodes, the severity of the neurocognitive deficit is similar in both bipolar and unipolar patients.