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BIPOLAR DISORDER AND SUICIDE: 10 YEARS FOLLOW-UP /RETROSPECTIVE SURVEY/

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Introduction: Bipolar disorder (BD) is chronic psychiatric disorder by mood swings, symptoms of BD are serious and life-threatening. Suicide risk in patients with BD is 25-50%, more frequent during depressive episode (*Compton,2000*) but with adequate treatment suicide risk can be presented in nearby 50% of patients only (*Goodwin, Jamison,2006*). Despite these facts data about the changes of treatment habits over the longer period of time under naturalistic condition are lacking.

The aim of study: To assess presence of suicidal thoughts and attempts in inpatients with BD and follow-up changes of treatment with lithium over the period of time.

Patients and methods: It was retrospective survey of in-patient's files hospitalized at the 1st Dept. of Psychiatry, UPJS, Kosice (1997-2007) with typical limitations for retrospective case survey. All patients had diagnosis of BD (DSM-IV), n=125 (67% of women and 33% of men). We discovered changes in suicidal behaviour with/without treatment of lithium.

Results: The first episode was depressive in 62% of patients, average number of episodes: 8,2. There was trend of decrease in use of lithium over the time (68% vs 84% in men, 29% vs 60% in women). The suicidal thoughts were more frequent during depressive episode (in 50% of women and 18% of men). Suicidal thoughts and attempts were 3 times more frequent in women vs men with BD. Suicidal attempts were 4 times more frequent in women with treatment with lithium vs without lithium.