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## Antecedents to first episode psychosis and mania: Comparing the initial prodromes of schizophrenia and bipolar disorder in a retrospective population cohort

Javier Ortiz-Orendain<sup>a</sup>, Manuel Gardea-Resendez<sup>a,b</sup>, Santiago Castiello-de Obeso<sup>c,d</sup>, Raphael Golebiowski<sup>a</sup>, Brandon Coombes<sup>e</sup>, Peggy M. Gruhlke<sup>a</sup>, Ian Michel<sup>f</sup>, J. Michael Bostwick<sup>a</sup>, Robert J. Morgan<sup>a</sup>, Aysegul Ozerdem<sup>a</sup>, Mark A. Frye<sup>a,1</sup>, Alastair J. McKean<sup>a,\*</sup>,<sup>1</sup>

<sup>a</sup>Department of Psychiatry & Psychology, Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN, USA

<sup>b</sup>Department of Psychiatry, Universidad Autónoma de Nuevo León, Monterrey, Mexico

<sup>c</sup>Department of Experimental Psychology, University of Oxford, Oxford, UK

<sup>d</sup>Centro Universitario de Ciencias de la Salud, Universidad de Guadalajara, Guadalajara, Mexico

<sup>e</sup>Department of Quantitative Health Sciences, Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN, USA

<sup>f</sup>Mayo Clinic Alix School of Medicine, Rochester, MN, USA

### Abstract

**Objective:** We aim to compare the psychiatric antecedents of schizophrenia (SZ) and bipolar disorder (BD).

\*Corresponding author at: Department of Psychiatry and Psychology, Mayo Clinic, 200 1<sup>st</sup> Street SW, Rochester, MN, 55902, USA. McKean.Alastair@mayo.edu (A.J. McKean).

<sup>1</sup>Equal contributors.

Authorship statement

All persons described below meet authorship criteria, are listed as authors, and all authors certify that they have participated sufficiently in the work to take public responsibility for the content, including participation in the concept, design, analysis, writing, or revision of the manuscript. Furthermore, each author certifies that this material or similar material has not been and will not be submitted to or published in any other journal.

**Ortiz-Orendain, Javier, M.D.** – conceptualization, methodology, software (redcap), validation, investigation, writing - original draft, and writing - review & editing.

**Gardea-Resendez, Manuel, M.D.** - conceptualization, methodology, software (redcap), validation, investigation, writing - review & editing.

**Castiello-de Obeso, Santiago, D.Phil** – conceptualization, methodology, formal analysis.

**Golebiowski, Raphael, M.D** – conceptualization and methodology.

**Coombes, Brandon, PhD** – formal analysis, supervision.

**Gruhlke, Peggy M, R.N.** - investigation.

**Michel, Ian** – conceptualization, writing - review & editing.

**Bostwick, J. Michael, M.D., MFA** – conceptualization, writing - review & editing.

**Morgan, Robert J, M.D., Ph.D.** – supervision, writing - review & editing.

**Ozerdem, Aysegul, M.D., Ph.D.** – conceptualization, methodology, supervision, writing - review & editing.

**Frye, Mark A, M.D.** - conceptualization, methodology, funding acquisition, supervision, writing - review & editing.

Declaration of competing interest

The authors declare the following financial interests/personal relationships which may be considered as potential competing interests:

Mark A. Frye received grant support from Assurex Health and Mayo Foundation, received CME travel and honoraria from Carnot Laboratories, and has Financial Interest/Stock ownership/Royalties from Chymia LLC.

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Appendix A. Supplementary data

Supplementary data to this article can be found online at <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jad.2023.07.106>.

**Methods:** Using the Rochester Epidemiology Project, we searched for residents of Olmsted County that had a diagnosis of SZ or BD. We confirmed each case using DSM-5 criteria and obtained the psychiatric antecedents.

**Results:** We identified 205 cases with first episode psychosis or mania (SZ = 131; BD = 74). The mean age at first visit for mental health reasons was  $12.3 \pm 6.3$  years for SZ and  $13.9 \pm 5.6$  years for BD. The duration of the initial prodrome (time from first mental health visit to first episode) was similar for both groups (SZ  $8.3 \pm 6.2$  years vs BD  $7.3 \pm 5.9$  years). We found that SZ and BD have overlapping antecedents, but SZ was more common in males and in foreign born and had more learning deficits before the first episode. BD was more common in white population and had higher rates of depressive and adjustment disorders prior to first episode. BD also had more affective symptoms, nightmares, and panic attacks before the first episode. Both groups had similarly high rates of substance use (SZ 74 % vs BD 74.3 %), prescription of antidepressants (SZ 46.6 % vs BD 55.4 %) and stimulants (SZ 30.5 % vs BD 22.9 %).

**Conclusions:** The psychiatric antecedents of SZ and BD usually start during adolescence, overlap, and present in unspecific ways. The initial prodromes are more alike than distinct. Further studies are encouraged to continue looking for specific factors that distinguish the antecedents of these two disorders.

## Keywords

Bipolar disorder; Schizophrenia; Prodrome; Cohort studies; First episode

## 1. Introduction

More than a century ago, German psychiatrist Emil Kraepelin suggested a categorical distinction between the two major psychiatric illnesses now known as schizophrenia (SZ) and bipolar disorder (BD). Known as the Kraepelinian dichotomy (Craddock and Owen, 2010) he operationalized and developed the concept of dementia praecox, now SZ, where a premature mental impairment was detectable in the early stage of the syndrome. The course of SZ as he described was characterized by significant deterioration of the mental state resulting in “unmistakable symptoms of weak-mindedness” after a few years of the illness (Kendler, 1986; Kraepelin, 1919). This entity was clinically distinct from manic-depressive illness, now BD, in which a “happy, sunny disposition” was noted prior to the illness and episodes of periodic and circular changes of emotion, energy, volition, and cognition characterized the acute episodes but without “any considerable injury” to the mental state of the patients during the intervals between the episodes (Kendler, 1986; Kraepelin, 1923). These two descriptions by Kraepelin of the antecedents of SZ and BD suggest that he considered that prior to the onset of the illness SZ and BD had distinct features.

To current day, the tradition of studying these two dimensions, the affective and the psychotic, as having separate boundaries remains (Kotov et al., 2013; Rybakowski, 2019). However, the validity of Kraepelinian dichotomy has been criticized as subsequent research has shown that SZ and BD overlap in multiple domains including genetic risk, clinical symptoms, neuroimaging correlates, and cognitive profiles (Birur et al., 2017; Craddock and Owen, 2010; Hill et al., 2013; Pradhan et al., 2008; Rybakowski, 2019; Zivanovic and

Nedic, 2012). While evidence accumulates demonstrating similarities between SZ and BD in multiple domains, less attention has been paid to how the clinical antecedents or prodromes of these two disorders compare (Hartmann et al., 2019).

In psychiatry, the concept of prodrome is used in retrospective research to understand the antecedents of the people that have developed a specific illness or episode. A prodrome has been defined as the “period of disturbance which represents a deviation from a person’s previous experience and behavior prior to the development of the florid features of a disorder” (Conus et al., 2008). Therefore, in the study of SZ and BD, the initial prodrome entails the clinical antecedents that occur prior to the first episode of psychosis or mania, alternatively, the relapse prodrome are the clinical antecedents that precede the recurrence of a psychotic or manic episode (Andrade-González et al., 2020).

Most of the studies regarding prodromes, have studied the initial prodromes of SZ and BD independently (Correll et al., 2010; Gourzis et al., 2002; Skjelstad et al., 2010; Van Meter et al., 2016); therefore, our understanding of how the initial prodromes of these two disorders compare is limited. The few studies comparing the initial prodromes of SZ and BD have found resemblances between them with similarities in number of symptoms, cognitive measures, premorbid adjustment, and historical diagnoses (Chan et al., 2019; Olvet et al., 2010; Rietdijk et al., 2011; Verdolini et al., 2022). Some authors have considered that the initial prodromes between these two disorders are “indistinguishable” (Olvet et al., 2010).

Therefore, to further extend our understanding of the prodromes of SZ and BD and how they relate, we aim to describe and compare the psychiatric diagnoses, symptoms, substance use and exposure to psychiatric medications in people with SZ and BD prior to the first episode using a unique American population-based cohort in Olmsted County, Minnesota. Studying clinical antecedents is essential as it can improve early detection, therefore increasing the possibility of early intervention, reducing the duration of untreated illness, and improving outcomes (Bechdolf et al., 2012; Norman et al., 2005).

## 2. Methods

This study was approved by the institutional review boards (IRBs) of the Mayo Clinic (IRB # 20–006720 and 20–008773) and Olmsted Medical Center (Approval dates: 11/20/2020 and 04/22/2021) who provided a Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) waiver, in line with state, federal, and international recommendations. Hence, written informed consent was not required for passive medical record review in the Rochester Epidemiology Project (Rocca et al., 2018).

### 2.1. The Rochester Epidemiology Project (REP)

The Rochester Epidemiology Project (REP), a population-based registry study provides an opportunity to retrospectively analyse the history of individuals who developed an illness while mitigating risks of sampling, recall, referral, and response biases (Allebeck, 2009; Maret-Ouda et al., 2017). The REP is a population registry that links records from multiple health care facilities in Olmsted County, Minnesota, USA. It contains nearly all records for residents of Olmsted County who have received medical care in the region since 1966.

The REP population shares similar demographic characteristics with the State of Minnesota, the Upper Midwest, and much of the U.S. population (Rocca et al., 2018). The potential of using the Rochester Epidemiology Project to understand diseases and improve community health has been described elsewhere (Rocca et al., 2012).

Different studies have shown replicability of the findings of research conducted in Olmsted County in other populations in the USA and the world (Rocca et al., 2018). The REP has been used for previous studies on SZ (Capasso et al., 2008) and BD (Foroughi et al., 2022; Prieto et al., 2016).

## 2.2. Search strategy

Using the REP, a specialist searched for all residents of Olmsted County between the ages of 13 to 29 years of age at the time of initial diagnosis with SZ or BD (See Table S1 and S2 for diagnostic codes used for SZ and BD). This search was chosen to provide high sensitivity while sacrificing specificity as the ascertainment of the case did not burden the study subjects.

We limited the search to the period between 1985 and 2019 given practical limitations in conducting a more comprehensive search with longer time-period. Finally, after reviewing multiple charts, we decided to exclude individuals who were solely identified based on the ICD code 296.90 (unspecified episodic mood disorder), due to the lack of specificity of the code.

## 2.3. Case ascertainment, variables obtained and definitions

The process of identifying cases was split into two phases. During the first phase, the potential cases identified by diagnostic codes ( $N = 1335$ ), were manually reviewed by one of two psychiatrists (JOO or MGR). The review was independent of any previous diagnoses in the subject's medical history and the case was reclassified using the available data in the records and DSM-5 criteria (American Psychiatric Association, 2013). After the review, the case was classified as SZ, BD, or neither.

During phase 2, we searched for the first episode of psychosis (FEP) or first episode of mania (FEM) in the cases that had been confirmed in phase one as meeting criteria of SZ or BD. The first episode was defined as the clinical encounter in which a person was first observed to have symptoms of psychosis or mania. This definition is simple, reliable, and intuitive (Breitborde et al., 2009).

Once we identified the SZ and BD cases with a first episode, we collected data prior to the first episode using a standardized version we created with RedCap (Harris et al., 2019). We collected demographic data, psychiatric history (diagnoses, medications, and substance use), symptoms and data from the first episode. Codes for mental health problems were classified according to the spectrums of DSM-5 (American Psychiatric Association, 2013). Specific neurodevelopmental spectrum diagnoses included autism spectrum disorder, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, intellectual disability, and other neurodevelopmental disorders were extracted separately from the spectrum. Conduct disorder and oppositional defiant disorder were also extracted separately from their respective spectrums. Substance use was noted

as positive if there was any exposure noted in the record not necessarily a substance use disorder.

We defined the onset of the initial prodrome as the date in which the first psychiatric problem, including neurodevelopmental problems, were first coded in the patients record or the first time a mental health problem was written in the problem list of a clinical note. Our definition of prodrome onset did not require that psychiatric symptoms be contiguous with the first episode (Geoffroy and Scott, 2017). This approach has been used by other authors (Powers et al., 2020). The end of the initial prodrome was at the time of the first episode.

## 2.4. Statistical analysis

We first tested for differences in demographics, diagnoses, symptoms, and substance use between BD and SZ using two-sample *t*-tests for continuous variable and either chi-square or Fisher's exact tests for categorical variables.

We then used Cox proportional hazards models to test for associations with age of onset and duration of illness between first mental health contact and FEP/FEM and adjusting for age at first contact, sex, race (white vs. non-white), and birthplace (US-born vs. outside of US). For this analysis, we combined the SZ and BD groups due to overlap of the initial prodromes and examined the correlation between demographic and antecedent diagnosis, substance use and exposure to medications with age of onset and duration of the initial prodrome. We created the survival curve with R Studio using ggplot2 (Team, 2013; Wickham, 2016).

## 3. Results

### 3.1. Search

As presented in Fig. 1, the initial search in the REP system yielded 2516 patients. After removal of the patients identified with only an ICD code 296.90 (unspecified episodic mood disorder), we manually inspected 1335 individual patient charts. In the context of the sensitive search, we excluded most cases (727 individuals, 54.5 % of the sample). The reasons for exclusion are shown in Fig. 1.

We confirmed 253 patients to meet criteria for SZ and 355 patients to meet criteria for BD. Of the SZ cases, 131 subjects (51 % of those with confirmed SZ) had an identifiable FEP. Of the BD cases, 74 subjects (20 % of those with confirmed BD) had an identifiable FEM.

### 3.2. Characteristics of the population

Table 1 shows the characteristics of the population identified with FEP or FEM. Most of both groups were male but there was a higher rate of males in the SZ groups versus males in the BD group (80.15 % vs 60.8 %, respectively;  $p = 0.003$ ). There were no statistically significant differences between the races of the two groups; however, the proportion of White patients was higher in the BD group compared to the SZ group (SZ 61.1 % vs BD 75.7 %).

The SZ group had a significantly higher rate of birth outside of the United States (SZ 22.1 % vs BD 5.1 %;  $p = 0.005$ ). Of the 32 patients born outside of the United States, sixteen were

from Somalia, seven were from Mexico, four were from Sudan, two were from Ethiopia, two from Kenya and one case was from Saudi Arabia.

### 3.3. First episode characteristics

The age of onset of the FEP for SZ was 20.4 years (SD 3.8) and the FEM for BD was 21.3 (SD 3.6). Most of the first episodes for both groups were identified in the emergency department (SZ 79 % vs BD 82 %), which resulted in hospitalization (SZ 87.7 % vs BD 79.7 %), and treatment with antipsychotics (SZ 84 % vs BD 77 %). There were no significant differences between BD and SZ for these events.

### 3.4. Mental health antecedents prior to the first episode

Most individuals (SZ 75.6 % vs BD 79.7 %) in our sample had an initial prodrome. Of those that had a psychiatric visit prior to the first episode, most started seeking help before the age of eighteen (SZ 80.8 % vs BD 79.6 %). The mean age at first visit for mental health reasons 12.3 years (SD 6.3) years for SZ and 13.9 year (SD 5.6) for BD. The duration of the prodrome was similar for both groups (SZ  $8.3 \pm 6.2$  years vs BD  $7.3 \pm 5.9$  years;  $p = 0.33$ ).

As shown in Table 1, we found significant overlap between the antecedent diagnoses of SZ and BD with only some differences in their characteristics. Before their first episode, patients with BD had a greater rate of diagnostic antecedents of depressive disorders and adjustment disorders (63.5 % and 36.5 % respectively) compared to patients with SZ (47.3 % and 20.6 % respectively). While not statistically significant, patients with SZ were more likely to have antecedent diagnoses of neurodevelopmental problems, such as ADHD, intellectual disability, and autism spectrum disorders.

We did not find a large difference between groups in the rate of prescription of any psychotropic medication (SZ 59.5 % vs BD 64.9 %;  $p = 0.55$ ), prescription of antidepressants (SZ 46.6 % vs BD 55.4 %;  $p = 0.28$ ), mood stabilizers (SZ 10.7 % vs BD 5.4 %;  $p = 0.3$ ), and stimulants (SZ 30.5 % vs BD 22.9 %;  $p = 0.24$ ) during the prodrome. There was a higher rate of antipsychotic use in the (SZ 20.6 % vs BD 9.5 %) group. Common reasons given for antipsychotic prescription in both groups included behavioral control or management of aggression (38 %), sleep (23 %), anxiety (14 %), diagnosis of autism (14 %), irritability (14 %), and mood augmentation (14 %).

Before the first episode, substance use during the lifetime was common among both samples (SZ 74 % vs BD 74.3 %). The most frequently used substances were cannabis followed by alcohol and nicotine. We did not find differences in the frequency of substance use between the two groups.

### 3.5. Symptoms before the first episode

Prior to the first episode, we found that SZ and BD have a wide range of symptoms and that the symptoms they exhibit overlap (Table 2). However, while the symptoms overlap, the differences in symptoms include SZ having higher rates of cases with learning deficits compared to BD. Contrarily, BD is characterized by a greater prevalence of any affective symptoms and has higher rates of low self-esteem, irritability, hyperthymia, nightmares,

and panic attacks. Also, during the initial prodrome BD has higher rate of subsyndromal manic symptoms such as, euphoria, increased goal-directed behaviors, and episodes of sleep-deprived energy enhancement. Both disorders had similar rates of suicidal spectrum symptoms and behavioral symptoms.

### 3.6. Predictors of age of onset and duration of initial prodrome

After adjusting for sex, race, and place of birth, we did not find evidence that age of onset (HR = 0.89; 95 CI 0.66 to 1.19;  $p = 0.44$ ) or the duration of the initial prodromic phase (HR = 1.08; 95 CI 0.76 to 1.54;  $p = 0.65$ ) was different between BD versus SZ individuals. These results remain essentially the same in the unadjusted mode (Fig. 2).

As shown in Table 3, The seven patients with a diagnosis of autism prior to the first episode of psychosis had an earlier onset of the illness (HR = 3.80; 95 CI from 1.75 to 8.24;  $p < 0.001$ ). Otherwise, white race, a history of depression and anxiety, and use of antidepressants were related to a later age of onset of the illness after adjusting for confounders.

The significant factors associated with longer initial prodromes were clinical problems that we expect to start in early life (i.e., neurodevelopmental disorders) and White race having a longer duration of prodrome. We also found that initially seeking help for neurodevelopmental disorders (e.g., speech disorder, unspecified neurodevelopmental problems or learning disorders), a history of ADHD, and prescription of stimulants were associated with longer initial prodrome (see Table 3). Of note, we did not find that antipsychotics, mood stabilizers, cannabis use, or non-prescription stimulant use were associated with the duration of the prodrome or the age of onset.

## 4. Discussion

Our main findings show that most individuals with SZ and BD have psychiatric antecedents before the first episode. The antecedents of these two disorders usually starts during adolescence, overlap, and present in unspecific ways. We found that the data gathered in a regular clinical practice is insufficient to easily differentiate between the antecedents of SZ and BD given the overlap. However, some differences between the two initial prodromes do appear when looking at larger samples.

Our results add to the accumulating evidence suggesting that the prodromes of SZ and BD are similar but not identical as they have overlap in diagnoses received, symptoms, medications prescribed, and substances used before the first episode of SZ and BD (Correll et al., 2007; Kafali et al., 2019; Olvet et al., 2010; Salvatore et al., 2014; Skjelstad et al., 2010; Verdolini et al., 2022).

While in most measures the psychiatric antecedents were similar, they were not identical. Patients with BD were diagnosed more frequently with depressive and adjustment disorders prior to their first episode. These results align with previous reports that have identified that over 50 % of patients who develop BD experienced mood symptoms or major depression in youth, versus 23 % in SZ (Addington et al., 2002; Faedda et al., 2019; Kalman et al., 2021).

We also found that prior to the first episode, patients with BD have more subsyndromal symptoms resembling mania including euphoria, hyperthymia, and sleep deprived energy enhancement. Similar results were found in other studies in which this subsyndromal manic symptoms accumulate more in the prodromes of BD (Van Meter et al., 2016; Verdolini et al., 2022) suggesting specificity of these symptoms for BD during the prodromal phase.

We found that SZ was diagnosed more frequently in immigrant and in non-white populations, adding to the accumulating evidence linking immigration and race as more commonly associated with SZ than with BD (Hollander et al., 2016; Schwartz and Blankenship, 2014). It is worth noting that in our sample, 16 (50 %) of the foreign born population come from Somalia, a reflection of Minnesota being the state with the largest population of Somalis in the US (Gambino et al., 2012) The Somali population might introduce a confounder as this report does not account for other factors previously reported in Somali population that also increase the risk for SZ or BD such as a history of trauma, malnutrition, and/or head trauma (Kroll et al., 2011). Finally, while there was also a higher prevalence of all neurodevelopmental diagnoses in SZ; we did not find a statistically significant difference between the two groups, likely due to insufficient power to detect differences. However, we did find that people with SZ had more learning deficits during the initial prodrome. The predominance of a neurodevelopmental component in SZ adds to the accumulating literature supporting the notion that SZ has a higher prevalence of cognitive problems and neuroanatomical changes compared to BD (Demjaha et al., 2012; Verdolini et al., 2022; Zanelli et al., 2010).

We also found that regardless of the diagnosis, prior to the FEP/FEM there is a long period of health care utilization for mental health reasons. This period starts at around 13-years of age and is characterized by psychiatric morbidity, a wide range of symptoms, prescription of psychotropics medications, and high rates of substance use. This period should continue to be used for early detections endeavours and early interventions given the importance of early treatment in improving outcomes (Correll et al., 2018).

Our results replicate previous finding that autism has been previously associated with earlier onset of schizophrenia (Rapoport et al., 2009). As expected, longer prodromes are associated with disorders characterized by seeking help during childhood such as neurodevelopmental disorders, ADHD, and stimulant prescription for ADHD. Notably, we did not find that cannabis was associated with longer prodromes or an earlier age of onset. This contrast with the findings of a meta-analysis that showed that most substances of abuse, especially cannabis, causes an earlier onset of psychosis in people with SZ (Large et al., 2011), but replicates the findings of the Finnish Cohort in BD (Denisoff et al., 2022).

Lastly, diagnoses of depression, anxiety, and use of antidepressants were related to a later of onset of the first episode. Given the significant correlation of these three factors, it is hard to distinguish if there is a unique factor driving the later age of onset or if they independently affect age of onset. Furthermore, in the context of the combination of the SZ and BD for this analysis, we are also unable to distinguish if the effect affects a particular group or both. The current evidence indicates that antidepressant use in the schizophrenia prodrome might have some protective effects (Cornblatt et al., 2007; Fusar-Poli et al., 2015) and in



contrast the exposure to antidepressant may precipitate mania and accelerate the age of onset (Chengappa et al., 2003; Perlis et al., 2004).

The strength of this study lies in the REP being a unique database in the United States that permits population-based research with medical, and continuity of care data collected by health care professionals (St. Sauver et al., 2012). Similar databases in the United States, that have been used to describe antecedents of people with psychosis include the Kaiser Permanente database; however, this database is limited as it does not provide complete coverage to the population that they serve and more importantly it excludes the uninsured population, a crucial limiting factor when studying people with SZ or BD (Kaiser Permanente Research Bank, n.d.; St. Sauver et al., 2012). Furthermore, each case was ascertained manually by a trained psychiatrist using DSM 5 criteria, this method of ascertainment offers a precision that studies using algorithms with imperfect specificity to detect psychosis from claims data do not (Simon et al., 2017). Also, the sample avoids the referral bias of clinical series or specialized programs (Powers et al., 2020). Finally, this dataset contained adequate data in clinical notes from healthcare encounters to allow assessment of illness trajectories, thus minimizing the risk of recall bias compared to studies with similar aims that depend on retrospective assessments (Kafali et al., 2019; Verdolini et al., 2022).

This study has several limitations. First, it is a retrospective study, which means that the data was collected from medical records. This type of study is prone to information bias, as the data in the medical records may not be accurate or complete. We suspect that this bias affects more prominently the symptom data (Table 2) as this data tends to not be systematically documented when compared to diagnostic codes, substance use, and medications. Also, while the REP has shown to be generalizable for most diseases, the generalizability for BD and SZ might be limited as the REP population is less diverse (mostly white) and has a higher socioeconomic status compared to the rest of the United States (St. Sauver et al., 2012). Another factor is the sample size deficits resulting in some of the analyses being underpowered and the differences in sample size between SZ and BD. Finally, the REP is missing data from a few small private clinics that provide mental health services as they are not included in the REP; therefore, we expect some missing data from patients using these services.

## 5. Conclusion

Starting at around adolescence, people with SZ and BD present to clinical settings with unspecific and heterogeneous psychiatric problems and symptoms which result in a wide range of diagnoses and prescriptions of psychiatric medications. Despite the tradition of splitting SZ and BD, our data shows that the antecedents or prodromes of SZ and BD are more alike than different; however, they are not “indistinguishable” (Olvet et al., 2010) at the population level. Further studies are encouraged to continue looking for specific factors that distinguish the antecedents of these two disorders.

## Supplementary Material

Refer to Web version on PubMed Central for supplementary material.

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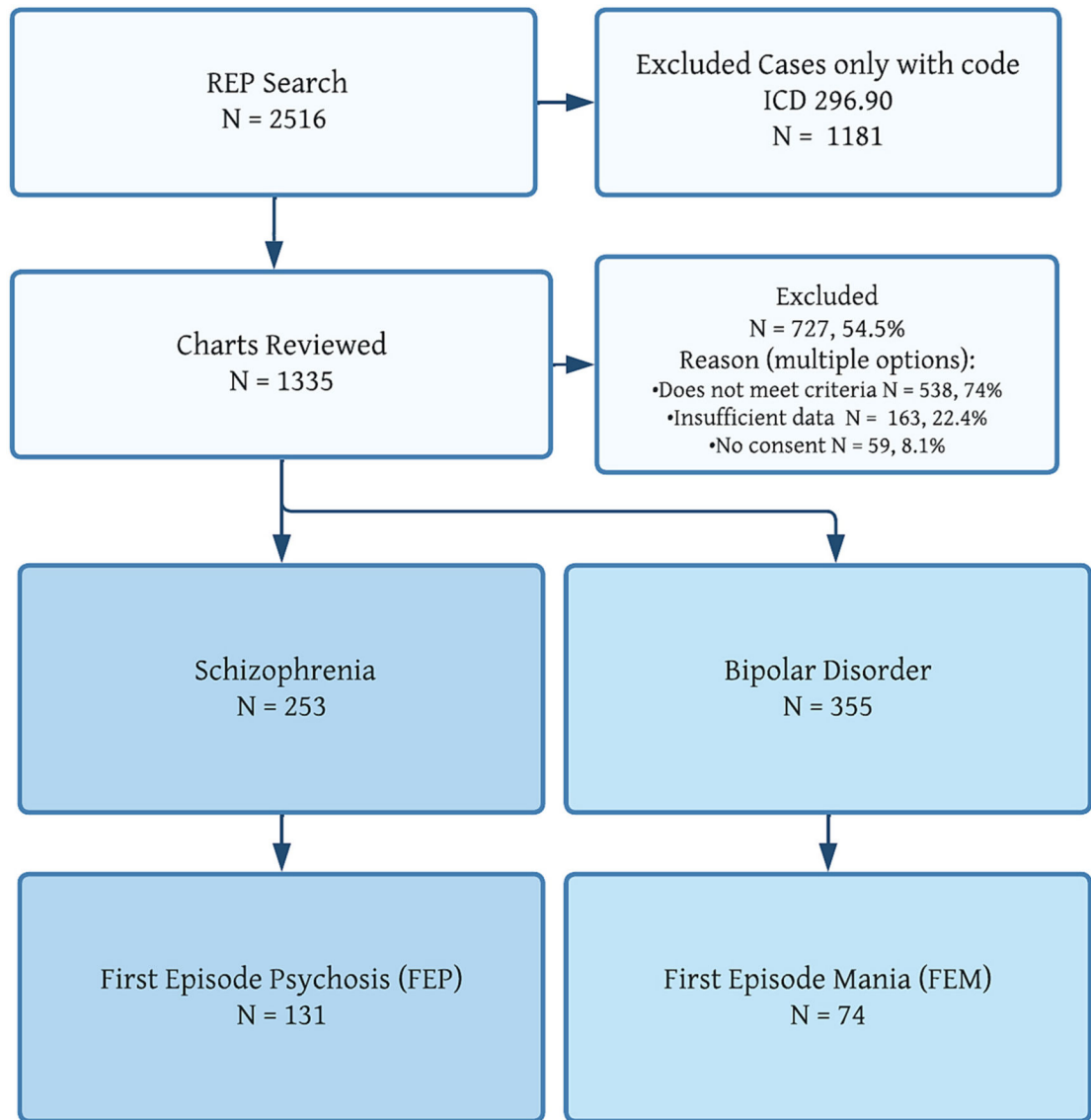
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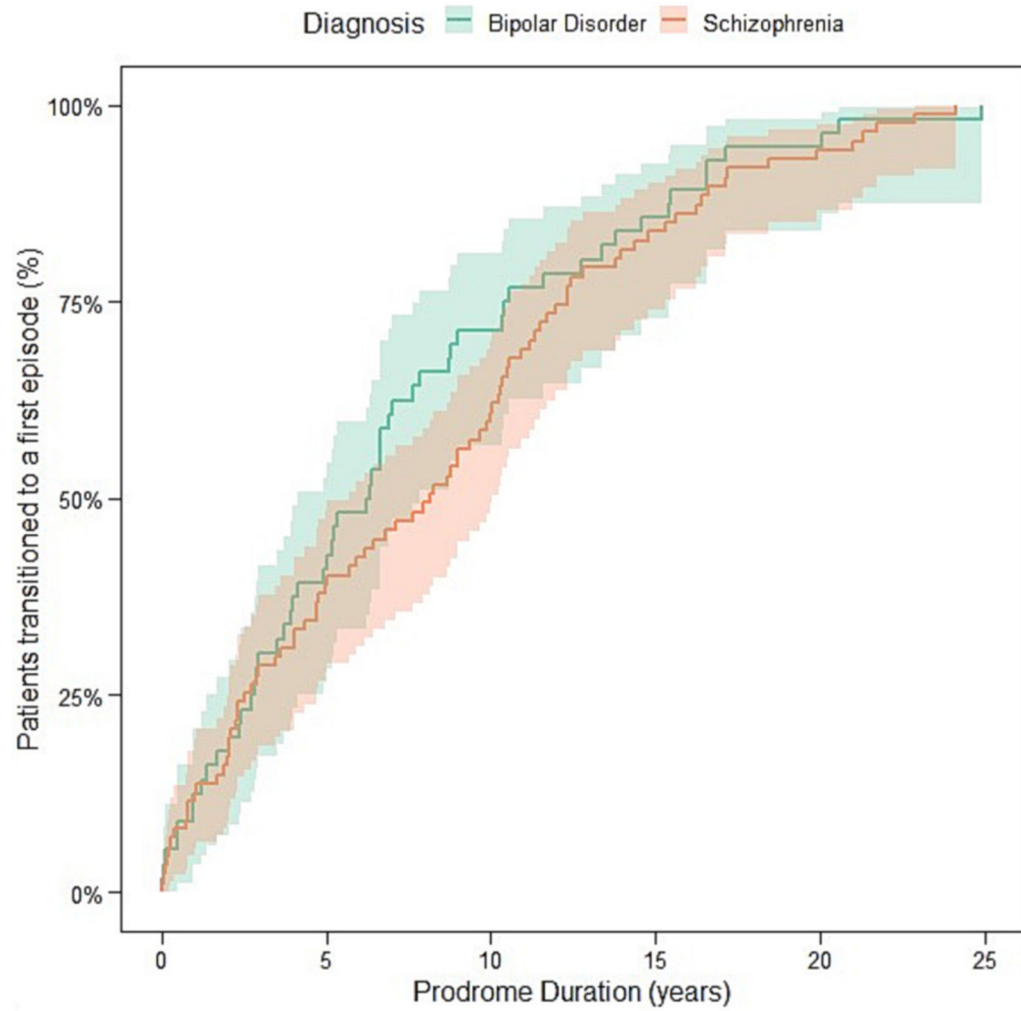
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**Fig. 1.**  
Patient flow.



**Fig. 2.** Unadjusted survival curve comparing the initial duration of prodrome of SZ and BD. Prodrome duration was defined as the time from first mental health visit to the first episode of psychosis or mania.

**Table 1**

Comparison of demographics and psychiatric antecedents.

| Characteristics of the population                     | Schizophrenia |      | Bipolar disorder |      | p-value |
|---|---------------|------|------------------|------|---------|
|   | (N = 131)     |      | (N = 74)         |      |         |
|   | N             | %    | N                | %    |         |
| Male  | 105           | 80.2 | 45               | 60.8 | 0.003   |
| <b>Race</b>   |               |      |                  |      | 0.48    |
| White   | 80            | 61.1 | 56               | 75.7 |         |
| Black/African/African American                        | 31            | 23.7 | 13               | 17.6 |         |
| Indian (American)                                     | 1             | 0.8  | 0                | 0    |         |
| Asian/Asian American                                  | 3             | 2.3  | 1                | 1.4  |         |
| Other   | 11            | 8.4  | 3                | 4.1  |         |
| Not specified   | 5             | 3.8  | 1                | 1.4  |         |
| Hispanic ethnicity                                    | 10            | 7.6  | 3                | 4.1  | 0.38    |
| Foreign born  | 28            | 22.1 | 4                | 5.1  | 0.005   |
| Initial presentation for a neurodevelopmental problem | 41            | 41.8 | 16               | 27.1 | 0.09    |
| Patients with an initial prodrome                     | 99            | 75.6 | 59               | 79.7 | 0.61    |
| <b>Psychiatric diagnoses before first episode</b>     |               |      |                  |      |         |
| ADHD  | 50            | 38.2 | 24               | 31.1 | 0.5     |
| Intellectual disability                               | 9             | 6.9  | 2                | 2.7  | 0.33    |
| Autism spectrum disorder                              | 7             | 5.3  | 0                | 0    | 0.05    |
| Other neurodevelopmental disorder <sup>†</sup>        | 41            | 31.3 | 15               | 20.3 | 0.12    |
| Conduct disorder                                      | 15            | 11.5 | 7                | 9.5  | 0.81    |
| Oppositional-defiant disorder                         | 13            | 9.9  | 6                | 8.1  | 0.80    |
| Depressive disorders                                  | 62            | 47.3 | 47               | 63.5 | 0.04    |
| Anxiety disorder                                      | 42            | 32.1 | 31               | 41.9 | 0.21    |
| Adjustment disorders                                  | 27            | 20.6 | 27               | 36.5 | 0.02    |
| <b>Medications before first episode</b>               |               |      |                  |      |         |
| Any psychotropic before first episode                 | 78            | 59.5 | 48               | 64.9 | 0.55    |
| Antidepressant  | 61            | 46.6 | 41               | 55.4 | 0.28    |
| Mood stabilizer                                       | 14            | 10.7 | 4                | 5.4  | 0.3     |
| Antipsychotic   | 27            | 20.6 | 7                | 9.5  | 0.06    |
| ADHD Medication (stimulant)                           | 40            | 30.5 | 17               | 22.9 | 0.24    |
| <b>Substance use before first episode</b>             |               |      |                  |      |         |
| Any substance use                                     | 97            | 74   | 55               | 74.3 | 0.97    |
| Alcohol   | 55            | 42   | 39               | 52.7 | 0.18    |
| Stimulants  | 30            | 22.9 | 13               | 18.9 | 0.36    |
| Cannabis  | 90            | 68.7 | 48               | 64.9 | 0.68    |

ADHD = attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, USA = United States of America.

<sup>†</sup> Other neurodevelopmental disorder include tics, learning, reading, speech, and other DSM-5 neurodevelopmental spectrum disorder.



**Table 2**

Symptoms prior to the first episode.

| Symptoms                                    | Schizophrenia<br>(N = 131) |       | Bipolar Disorder<br>(N = 74) |       | p-value | Schizophrenia<br>(N = 131) |       | Bipolar Disorder<br>(N = 74) |       | p-value |
|---|----------------------------|-------|------------------------------|-------|---------|----------------------------|-------|------------------------------|-------|---------|
|   | N                          | %     | N                            | %     |         | N                          | %     | N                            | %     |         |
| <b>Any affective symptom</b>                | 73                         | 55.73 | 61                           | 82.43 | <0.001  | 63                         | 48.09 | 28                           | 37.84 | 0.20    |
| Sadness                                     | 53                         | 40.46 | 38                           | 51.35 | 0.17    | 13                         | 9.92  | 6                            | 8.11  | 0.80    |
| Anhedonia                                   | 25                         | 19.08 | 20                           | 27.03 | 0.25    | 46                         | 35.11 | 22                           | 29.73 | 0.52    |
| Low self esteem                             | 27                         | 20.61 | 26                           | 35.14 | 0.03    | 34                         | 25.95 | 8                            | 10.81 | 0.01    |
| Decreased energy                            | 27                         | 20.61 | 23                           | 31.08 | 0.13    | 21                         | 16.03 | 7                            | 9.46  | 0.27    |
| Mood swings                                 | 20                         | 15.27 | 20                           | 27.03 | 0.06    | 9                          | 6.87  | 2                            | 2.7   | 0.33    |
| Euphoria                                    | 0                          | 0.0   | 8                            | 10.81 | <0.001  | 28                         | 21.37 | 10                           | 13.51 | 0.22    |
| Irritability                                | 53                         | 40.46 | 47                           | 63.51 | 0.002   | 31                         | 23.66 | 13                           | 17.57 | 0.39    |
| Hyperthymia                                 | 1                          | 0.76  | 6                            | 8.11  | 0.01    |                            |       |                              |       |         |
| Increased goal directed behaviors           | 2                          | 1.53  | 10                           | 13.51 | <0.001  | 63                         | 48.09 | 28                           | 37.84 | 0.20    |
| Hypersexuality                              | 1                          | 0.76  | 3                            | 4.05  | 0.13    | 19                         | 14.5  | 12                           | 16.22 | 0.90    |
| Cognitive problems                          | 7                          | 5.34  | 4                            | 5.41  | >0.99   | 4                          | 3.05  | 1                            | 1.35  | 0.65    |
| Changes in appetite                         | 10                         | 7.63  | 12                           | 16.22 | 0.06    | 11                         | 8.4   | 6                            | 8.11  | >0.99   |
| Hypersomnia                                 | 6                          | 4.58  | 2                            | 2.7   | 0.71    | 16                         | 12.21 | 15                           | 20.27 | 0.17    |
| Insomnia                                    | 48                         | 36.64 | 36                           | 48.65 | 0.12    | 6                          | 4.58  | 2                            | 2.7   | 0.71    |
| Parasomnia                                  | 0                          | 0.0   | 2                            | 2.7   | 0.12    | 29                         | 22.14 | 25                           | 33.78 | 0.09    |
| Sleep deprived energy-enhancement           | 3                          | 2.29  | 11                           | 14.86 | 0.001   | 5                          | 3.82  | 4                            | 5.41  | 0.72    |
| <b>Any anxious-trauma-obsessive symptom</b> | 60                         | 45.8  | 36                           | 48.65 | 0.80    | 9                          | 6.87  | 7                            | 9.46  | 0.59    |
| Excessive worries                           | 41                         | 31.3  | 26                           | 35.14 | 0.68    | 19                         | 14.5  | 14                           | 18.92 | 0.53    |
| Hypervigilance                              | 5                          | 3.82  | 3                            | 4.05  | >0.99   | 16                         | 12.21 | 9                            | 12.16 | >0.99   |
| Restlessness                                | 23                         | 17.56 | 14                           | 18.92 | 0.95    | 57                         | 43.51 | 35                           | 47.3  | 0.70    |
| Social anxiety                              | 21                         | 16.03 | 11                           | 14.86 | 0.98    | 50                         | 38.17 | 32                           | 43.24 | 0.57    |
| Excessive fear or phobias                   | 13                         | 9.92  | 11                           | 14.86 | 0.36    | 29                         | 22.14 | 18                           | 24.32 | 0.85    |
| Nightmares                                  | 4                          | 3.05  | 9                            | 12.16 | 0.015   | 23                         | 17.56 | 17                           | 22.97 | 0.44    |
| Flashbacks                                  | 3                          | 2.29  | 2                            | 2.7   | >0.99   |                            |       |                              |       |         |
| Obsessions                                  | 4                          | 3.05  | 4                            | 5.41  | 0.46    | 29                         | 22.14 | 22                           | 29.73 | 0.29    |

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| Symptoms      | Schizophrenia<br>(N = 131) |      | Bipolar Disorder<br>(N = 74) |       | Symptoms | Schizophrenia<br>(N = 131) |   | Bipolar Disorder<br>(N = 74) |   | p-value |
|---------------|----------------------------|------|------------------------------|-------|----------|----------------------------|---|------------------------------|---|---------|
|               | N                          | %    | N                            | %     |          | N                          | % | N                            | % |         |
| Panic attacks | 10                         | 7.63 | 13                           | 17.57 |          |                            |   |                              |   | 0.03    |

BD = bipolar disorder, SZ = Schizophrenia, IQ = intelligence quotient.

**Table 3**

Factors associated with age of onset and duration of prodrome.

| Characteristics of the population                     | Age of onset |      |      |      | Duration of initial prodrome |      |      |      |         |
|---|--------------|------|------|------|------------------------------|------|------|------|---------|
|   | N            | HR   | LCI  | UCI  | N                            | HR   | LCI  | UCI  | p-value |
| Diagnosis of BD vs SZ                                 | 205          | 0.89 | 0.66 | 1.19 | 143                          | 1.08 | 0.76 | 1.54 | 0.65    |
| Male  | 205          | 0.98 | 0.71 | 1.34 | 143                          | 0.90 | 0.62 | 1.29 | 0.56    |
| White race vs non-white                               | 205          | 0.61 | 0.44 | 0.86 | 143                          | 1.03 | 1.01 | 1.06 | 0.01    |
| Hispanic ethnicity                                    | 205          | 1.60 | 0.89 | 2.87 | 143                          | 0.64 | 0.42 | 0.95 | 0.03    |
| Foreign born  | 205          | 1.29 | 0.83 | 2.01 | 143                          | 0.88 | 0.41 | 1.91 | 0.75    |
| Initial presentation for a neurodevelopmental problem | 158          | 1.06 | 0.75 | 1.50 | 143                          | 0.38 | 0.26 | 0.57 | < 0.001 |
| <b>Diagnoses before first episode</b>                 |              |      |      |      |                              |      |      |      |         |
| ADHD  | 205          | 1.04 | 0.75 | 1.45 | 143                          | 0.43 | 0.29 | 0.63 | < 0.001 |
| Intellectual disability                               | 205          | 1.11 | 0.60 | 2.08 | 143                          | 0.52 | 0.27 | 0.98 | 0.04    |
| Autism spectrum disorder                              | 205          | 3.80 | 1.75 | 8.24 | 143                          | 1.04 | 0.45 | 2.40 | 0.92    |
| Other neurodevelopmental disorder †                   | 205          | 1.05 | 0.75 | 1.48 | 143                          | 0.40 | 0.27 | 0.59 | < 0.001 |
| Conduct disorder                                      | 205          | 1.48 | 0.94 | 2.34 | 143                          | 0.66 | 0.41 | 1.07 | 0.09    |
| Oppositional-defiant disorder                         | 205          | 1.48 | 0.90 | 2.41 | 143                          | 0.61 | 0.36 | 1.03 | 0.07    |
| Depressive disorders                                  | 205          | 0.65 | 0.48 | 0.88 | 143                          | 0.98 | 0.67 | 1.46 | 0.94    |
| Anxiety disorder                                      | 205          | 0.73 | 0.54 | 1.00 | 143                          | 0.98 | 0.68 | 1.41 | 0.91    |
| Adjustment disorders                                  | 205          | 1.10 | 0.79 | 1.54 | 143                          | 1.08 | 0.76 | 1.54 | 0.66    |
| <b>Medications</b>                                    |              |      |      |      |                              |      |      |      |         |
| Any psychotropic before first episode                 | 205          | 0.82 | 0.60 | 1.12 | 143                          | 0.77 | 0.50 | 1.20 | 0.25    |
| Antidepressant  | 205          | 0.74 | 0.54 | 1.00 | 143                          | 0.96 | 0.67 | 1.39 | 0.84    |
| Mood Stabilizer                                       | 205          | 0.69 | 0.41 | 1.17 | 143                          | 0.66 | 0.40 | 1.09 | 0.10    |
| Antipsychotic   | 205          | 0.81 | 0.54 | 1.21 | 143                          | 0.94 | 0.62 | 1.42 | 0.77    |
| ADHD medication (stimulant)                           | 205          | 1.00 | 0.71 | 1.40 | 143                          | 0.40 | 0.27 | 0.60 | < 0.001 |
| <b>Substance use</b>                                  |              |      |      |      |                              |      |      |      |         |
| Any substance use                                     | 205          | 0.69 | 0.50 | 0.95 | 143                          | 1.23 | 0.83 | 1.81 | 0.30    |
| Alcohol   | 205          | 0.76 | 0.57 | 1.01 | 143                          | 1.01 | 0.72 | 1.43 | 0.93    |
| Stimulants  | 205          | 0.71 | 0.49 | 1.04 | 143                          | 0.83 | 0.55 | 1.26 | 0.39    |
| Cannabis  | 205          | 0.78 | 0.58 | 1.05 | 143                          | 1.07 | 0.75 | 1.53 | 0.70    |

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BD = bipolar disorder, SZ = Schizophrenia, ADHD = attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, LCI = lower confidence interval, UCI = upper confidence interval, HR = Hazard Ratio, USA = United States of America.

<sup>†</sup>Other neurodevelopmental disorder include tics, learning, reading, speech, and other DSM-5 neurodevelopmental spectrum disorder.