

ANXIETY AND AGGRESSION LEVELS IN PATIENTS WITH BIPOLAR DISORDER WITH AND WITHOUT CRIMINAL INVOLVEMENT

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BACKGROUND AND AIM: This study aims to identify factors associated with anxiety and aggression levels in patients diagnosed with bipolar disorder with and without a history of criminal involvement

METHODS: (Ethics Committee Approval must be obtained and the number should be specified). Patients with a history of criminal involvement were bipolar disorder patients hospitalized in the High-Security Forensic Psychiatry Unit of our hospital. Patients without criminal involvement were recruited from those receiving inpatient treatment in the general psychiatry ward and/or attending psychiatry outpatient clinic. All participants completed sociodemographic data form, the Beck Anxiety Inventory, and the Buss–Perry Aggression Questionnaire. Study was approved by the Non-Interventional Ethics Committee of Elazığ Fethi Sekin City Hospital (Approval No: 2025/13-6; Date: 24 July 2025).

RESULTS: A total of 111 patients (93 males, 18 females) were included: 60 with and 51 without criminal involvement. No statistically significant differences were found between the groups in age, sex, marital status, place of residence, educational level, history of suicide attempts, tobacco and alcohol use. Both

groups showed mild anxiety levels, with no significant difference. Similarly, no significant differences were observed in the BPAQ subscales of physical aggression, hostility, anger, or verbal aggression ($p = 0.386$, $p = 0.541$, $p = 0.780$, $p = 0.205$). In the criminally involved group, Beck Anxiety scores showed moderate positive correlations with physical aggression, hostility, anger, verbal aggression, and total aggression scores ($r=0.366$, $r=0.428$, $r=0.340$, $r=0.343$, $r=0.413$). In non-criminally involved group, moderate positive correlations were found between Beck Anxiety, Buss-Perry hostility and anger subscales ($r=0.318$, $r=0.311$).

CONCLUSIONS: No significant differences were identified between patients with and without criminal involvement in terms of anxiety and aggression levels. However, significant differences were observed in certain sociodemographic factors, such as occupation and substance use. Positive correlations between anxiety and aggression were present in both groups, indicating a complex and multifactorial relationship. Further large-scale and longitudinal studies are needed to better clarify these associations.

Keywords: Aggression, anxiety, bipolar disorder, crime