

Abstract

Sexuality is an important area of human functioning and the ability to fulfill this need in accord with the individual desires (while respecting the rights of others) is one of the basic rights of every human being. Mental disorders, that induce changes in many spheres of functioning, also affect the sexuality.

The aim of the present study is to characterize sexual functioning of patients suffering from mood disorders and verify the role of co-existing personality disorders. In this work I studied 100 patients of Mazovian psychiatric hospitals (55 women and 45 men) during the treatment of the depressive episode in bipolar disorder (34 persons) and the treatment of the manic episode in bipolar disorder (27 persons). The following diagnostic methods have been used: *Questionnaire from Structured Clinical Interview for DSM-IV Disorders, Polish version of the Mell-Krat Scale, The Female Sexual Function Index (FSFI), International Index of Erectile Function (IIEF – 5)* and two original positions: *The Questionnaire of Sexual Disorders (KZM) and the Questionnaire of Sexuality (KWS)*.

Results show significant relationship between the intensity of affective disorders and sexual dysfunctions regardless of the disease phase.

Pharmacological treatment does not increase the deficits in sexual functioning occurring in the course of affective disorder.

Furthermore, patients with co-existing personality disorders exhibit more sexual dysfunction symptoms during the symptom occurrence and pharmacological treatment.