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LATE-ONSET BIPOLAR DISORDER: LITERATURE REVIEW AND A CASE REPORT OF INAUGURAL ACUTE MANIA ON AN ELDERY WOMAN WITH PARKINSON DISEASE

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Introduction: Recent estimates suggest Bipolar disorder (BD) affects approximately 1% of the population, with diagnosis often made during late adolescence and early adulthood, and that it is lower in the elderly (up to 0.1%). The initial onset of BD generally presents with depressive episode, but an initial maniac episode is not uncommon, although it becomes less likely with increasing age. In spite of the fact that elderly is a growing population in developed countries there are only few studies on late-onset BD (LOBD). Its etiopathogenesis and heterogeneity are complex, sharing several commonalities with organic brain diseases, which is denoted on frequent neuroimaging white matter hyperintensities, and involves higher medical and neurological burden.

Objectives and aims: To provide a comprehensive review reporting prevalence, features, course and comorbidity on LOBD. Additionally to report one selected case, intending to better understand this patient's subgroup.

Methods: The literature was systematically reviewed by searching on PubMed and reference psychogeriatric textbooks. We have selected one case of an elderly woman with LOBD with inaugural acute mania episode associated with previous diagnosis of Parkinson disease.

Results: Distinguishing older adults with BD by early or late age at onset have limited clinical usefulness, although LOBD patients are more likely to have an organic mental disorder superimposed and more extensive and severe cognitive impairments, as well as vulnerability to extrapyramidal symptoms.

Conclusions: This case-report and literature review suggests that LOBD as a distinct diagnostic entity by its different presentation and etiology, and consequently different treatment, needs further investigation.