P03-59 - **PERSONALITY IN FIRST EPISODE PSYCHOSIS**
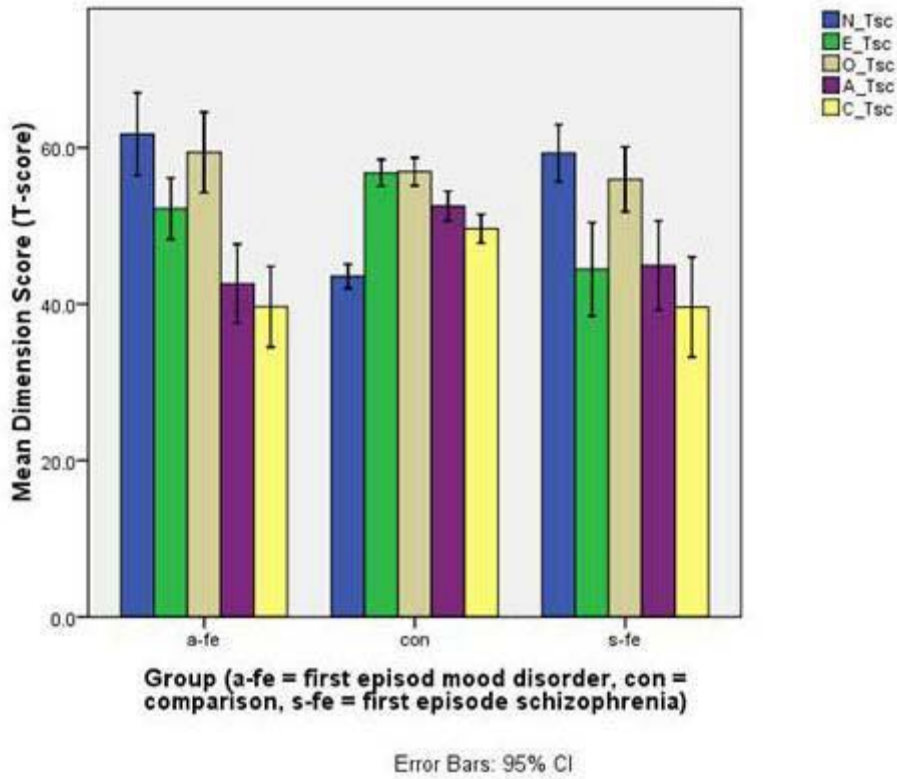
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Objectives: To compare "big five" personality trait dimensions in psychiatrically healthy individuals and first episode psychosis (schizophrenia and bipolar disorder).

Methods: Clinically stable patients with first episode schizophrenia (22M, 4F) and bipolar disorder (24M, 8F), and psychiatrically healthy subjects (101M, 36F), completed the NEO-FFI personality inventory. The NEO-FFI is a 60-item self-assessment questionnaire that measures the major personality trait dimensions of neuroticism (N), extraversion (E), openness (O), agreeableness (A) and conscientiousness (C); it has good reliability and cross-cultural validity (McCrae et al, J Res Person, 2004;38:179-201). Gender-specific T-scores were analyzed using standard multivariate statistical techniques.

Results: As expected, age correlated with personality dimensions in the entire sample (N= -.144, p= .045; O= -.169, p= .018; A= .228, p= .001; C = .150, p= .037). MANOVA with dimension scores as dependent variables, diagnosis as a fixed factor independent variable, and age as a covariate demonstrated that schizophrenia and bipolar groups were statistically similar on N, A, and C. Both patient groups were significantly higher than comparison subjects on N and lower on A and C (see Figure). All three groups differed significantly on E (schizophrenia < bipolar < comparison), but no groups differed on O.

Conclusions: Personality deviations are present in first episode schizophrenia and bipolar disorder, and are similar to abnormalities previously described in patients with more chronic illness.

Error Bars: 95% CI

[NEO Dimension Scores by Group]