The comorbidity of psychotic and obsessive-compulsive symptoms

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Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder (OCD) is an anxiety disorder characterized by recurrent, unwanted and persistent thoughts, accompanied by dysphoria and to a variable degree stereotypic movements and/or cognitive manifestations. On the other hand, schizophrenia is a disorder, which comprises alterations of external and internal reality, and it is characterized by disorders of thought, perception, affect, volition and behavior. The symptoms of OCD and those of schizophrenia are variously inter-related. OCD symptoms often precede those of schizophrenia, while some other times the converse is the case. This article aimed at reviewing and presenting the epidemiological, clinical, biological, and pharmacotherapeutic data regarding the comorbidity of the two disorders, in order to ultimately draw useful conclusions in terms of their distinction, their differential diagnosis, and their effective management.

Key words: obsessive-compulsive disorder, schizophrenia, comorbidity.

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Review

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