

Sociodemographic and clinical predictors of depression in children and adolescents: results of a two-year follow-up study

Nick Styss

University Hospital Düsseldorf, Heinrich-Heine- University Düsseldorf

Chantal Michel

University of Bern

Naweed Osman

University Hospital Düsseldorf, Heinrich-Heine- University Düsseldorf

Petra Walger

University Hospital Düsseldorf, Heinrich-Heine- University Düsseldorf

Maurizia Franscini

University of Zürich

Nina Traber-Walker

University of Zürich

Benno G. Schimmelmann

University of Bern

Rahel Flückiger

University of Bern

Marcel Romanos

University of Wuerzburg

Eva Meisenzahl

University Hospital Düsseldorf, Heinrich-Heine- University Düsseldorf

Volker Reissner

University Hospital Düsseldorf, Heinrich-Heine- University Düsseldorf

Georg Romer

University of Muenster

Gerd Schulte-Körne

Hospital of the Ludwig-Maximilians-University (LMU) Munich

Ellen Greimel

Hospital of the Ludwig- Maximilians-University (LMU) Munich

Frauke Schultze-Lutter (**In the Schultze-Lutter** (**In the Schultze-Lutte**

University Hospital Düsseldorf, Heinrich-Heine- University Düsseldorf

Research Article

Keywords: Depression, Prediction, Children, Adolescents, Risk Factors, Comorbidity

Posted Date: November 17th, 2023

DOI: https://doi.org/10.21203/rs.3.rs-3611793/v1

License: © (1) This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License.

Read Full License

Additional Declarations: No competing interests reported.

Abstract

Depressive disorders are a main cause of disability-adjusted life years already in children and adolescents, in whom the clinical picture somewhat differs from adult-onset depression. Thus, we studied sociodemographic and clinical predictors of depression/dysthymia in a sample of minors. Our baseline sample (N=676) included patients at clinical high-risk for psychosis (CHR-P, n=183), inpatients admitted for non-psychotic, non-affective disorders (n=277), and community participants (n=216) of age 7.0 to 17.9 years (43.8% male). They were assessed by clinical psychologists for mental disorders and symptoms with various clinical interviews including the Mini International Neuropsychiatric Interview for Children and Adolescents, which was also used to assess depression/dysthymia in the CHR-P group at 1and 2-year-follow up (n=117 and 73, respectively). Analyses followed a stepwise procedure at baseline with stepwise logistic regression analyses to identify the final baseline model that was tested in the follow-up samples. The final cross-sectional model included nationality and 13 clinical variables Mild depressive symptoms in particular played a decisive role here. Variables contributing significantly to the prediction varied over time, indicating that CAD depression/dysthymia may require different predictors depending on the follow-up time. Furthermore, the prospective accuracy of ruling out depression/dysthymia was superior to the accuracy of ruling it in. This lower positive likelihood ratio might be overcome in future by stepwise approaches that further stratify risk in those initially identified as at increased risk of depression/dysthymia.

Introduction

Major depression (MD) is one of the most common diseases with a lifetime risk of 15-18% and considered by WHO to be the third largest cause of global disease burden with a steadily increasing trend that will likely make MD the disease of most global economic and health importance by 2030 [1, 2]. Prevalence rates of MD vary by age, sex, and countries, with higher rates in females and lifetime rates in Europe between 9.9% in Germany and 21.0% in France [1, 3]. Peak of onset is between adolescence and age of 40 years, with a median age-of-onset in the early and middle 20s [1, 3]. Earlier age-of-onset and/or longer duration of untreated MD has been related to greater severity and poorer outcome [4, 5]. Already in children and adolescents (CAD) of age 10 and older, unipolar MD was reported as the main cause of disability-adjusted life years [6], and MD in childhood and adolescence (henceforth: pediatric MD) was associated with a multitude of poor psychosocial and mental health outcomes in adulthood [7, 8], indicating an urgent need for timely early detection and intervention in CAD [5, 7–13]. Yet, already diagnosis of manifest MD is more difficult and, therefore, more delayed in CAD compared to adults, because the clinical picture of CAD differs in part from that of adults, and differentiating MD from puberty crises or other primary mental disorders is frequently problematic[1, 4]. For example, compared to adult cases, CAD with MD more often show moodiness, irritability, disruptive behaviors, school refusal, vegetative symptoms (such as headaches), insomnia, and self-harm but less frequently anhedonia or loss of interest and concentration problems [5, 6, 8].

Regarding preventive approaches of MD in CAD, universal approaches addressing entire groups of CAD (e.g., in school-based interventions[9]), have been less successful than targeted approaches. Targeted approaches involve selective and indicated interventions focusing on those who are at high-risk due to the presence of either proximal risk factors (frequently parental MD as one of the main risk factors for pediatric MD [14]) or subclinical symptoms, such as subthreshold depression [10-12, 15, 16]. In addition to genetic and biological risk factors (e.g., dysfunctional neuro-regulatory factors), psychosocial risk factors of MD that are frequently rather unspecific but might be addressed with selective approaches include: low parental education, occupational group, or social status; negative school and family experiences; poor school involvement; lifestyle-related risk factors such as substance (mis)use and lower levels of physical activity; low sense of coherence and self-esteem; and maladaptive emotion regulation strategies and various cognitive styles [9, 14, 16-20]. However, given the multitude and interaction of risk factors of MD, selective approaches that address the complexity of risk factors and allow a risk stratification are needed [7, 8]. Indicated prevention mainly focuses on CAD exhibiting a persistent low mood or subthreshold depression [6, 9, 10]. Yet, although subthreshold depression was reported as being clinically relevant in itself, with affected individuals sharing many features with MD patients [9], there is currently only insufficient evidence that the treatment of subthreshold depression in CAD prevents the onset of MD [11]. Thus, just as a single risk factor is insufficient to appropriately capture a high-risk of MD, subthreshold depression as commonly established with standardized diagnostic interviews [11] likely only insufficiently describes clinical high-risk for MD (CHR-MD)[7].

Against this background and within the framework of an indicated prevention, the aim of the current study was to identify psychosocial risk factors and early signs of depression and/or dysthymia that promote the occurrence of pediatric MD. In analogy to the prediction of psychoses [11, 12], in terms of early signs, the focus was on the consideration of the suitability of subthreshold or subtle subjective symptoms as assessed with the "Schizophrenia Proneness Instrument, Child & Youth version" (SPI-CY [21]) and the "Structured Interview for Psychosis-Risk Syndromes" (SIPS [12]). Because of the phenomenological proximity to depressive symptoms, subtle subjective disturbances in energy level and stress tolerance as well as in affect processing were expected to be predictive for pediatric MD. The SPI-CY dimensions Adynamia and Neuroticism, and the SIPS Negative and General Symptoms subscales capture these and may be especially suitable to assess early signs of pediatric MD.

Methods

Sample

The sample (N = 676; 43.7% male) was recruited as part of the Binational Evaluation of At-Risk Symptoms in Children and Adolescents (BEARS-Kid) study [12] between 09-2013 and 12-2017, and followed up annually until March 2018, for a maximum of two years (see sFigure 1 and sText1 for more information on recruitment and follow-up). General inclusion criteria were age between 8.0 and 17.9 years, and sufficient language skills in German or English. Two patient groups were included at three sites (child and adolescent psychiatric units of the Universities of Bern, Zurich and Cologne): (1) inpatients not

clinically suspected to develop psychosis with a principal diagnosis of attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, anxiety disorder, obsessive-compulsive disorder, Asperger's syndrome, or eating disorder (n = 277), and (2) predominantly outpatients who met clinical high-risk criteria for psychosis according to ultra-high risk and basic symptom (BS) criteria (CHR-P [22][n = 183). A third community sample (n = 216) was recruited by the Bern site only and randomly drawn from the population register of the greater Bern area (Switzerland). General exclusion criteria were lifetime diagnosis of psychosis, IQ < 70 and presence of disturbance due to the direct physiological effects of a general medical condition or of substance use. Additional exclusion criteria for inpatients and community participants were current antipsychotic medication and clinical suspicion of an emerging psychosis and, consequently, consultation of the local early detection service. For more sample characteristics, see sTable 1.

Since follow-up examinations in BEARS-Kid focused on CHR-P and a possible transition to psychosis, all mental disorders including depressive disorders were assessed at follow-ups only in the CHR-P sample (n = 117 at one-year follow-up (T1) and n = 73 at two-year follow-up (T2; see sFigure 1).

At each stage, the BEARS-Kid study was carried out in accordance with the latest version of the Declaration of Helsinki and approved by the ethics committee of the Universities of Bern (No.174/10), Zurich (No. 2010 – 0415/3) and Cologne (No.11–071).

Assessments

CHR-P criteria were assessed with the SPI-CY and SIPS. The SPI-CY assesses the BS criteria Cognitive Disturbances and Cognitive-Perceptive Basic Symptoms, along with other BS in four main domains: Adynamia (A), Perception Disturbances (B), Neuroticism (C), and Thought And Motor Disturbances (D) [12, 23]. BS are subtle, subclinical self-experienced disturbances in drive, stress tolerance, affect, thinking, speech, perception and motor action that are rated for severity according to their frequency, with scores ranging from 0 (absent) to 6 (daily). Additionally, scores of 7 (always been present in the same severity), 8 (present but frequency unknown) and 9 (questionably present) are available; these were recoded for the present analyses as follows: 7 = 0, 8 = 1, and 9 = 0.

The SIPS assesses the ultra-high risk criteria, including the Attenuated Positive Symptom Syndrome, the Brief Intermittent Psychosis Syndrome and the Genetic Risk and Functional Decline Syndrome. It comprises four subscales, i.e., Positive (P), Negative (N), Disorganized (Dis) and General Symptoms (G) [24]. The main items are rated syndromally for their severity, with scores ranging from 0 (absent) to 6 ('severe and psychotic' in case of positive symptoms and 'extreme' in case of other symptoms); the symptoms constituting the main items are rated for their presence and absence.

Mental disorders according to the fourth revision of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-IV) [25] were assessed using the Mini International Neuropsychiatric Interview for Children and Adolescents (MINI-KID) [24, 26], a short standardized diagnostic interview for mental disorders in children and adolescents. Level of psychosocial functioning was assessed by the Global Assessment of Functioning (GAF) that is part of the SIPS, the Global Functioning: Social Scale (GF:Social

[14]) and the Social and Occupational Functioning Assessment Scale (SOFAS) of the DSM-IV with ratings ranging from 0 (poor) to 100 or 10 (superior).

Assessments were carried out by well-trained clinical psychologists who were supervised monthly by two expert raters, C.M. and F.S.L..

Data analyses

For the multitude of variables, we followed a stepwise protocol to detect potential predictors, in doing so, targeting a sufficient event:variable ratio of at least 1:5 for regression analyses [16] at each step. First, we conducted group comparisons using Chi²-tests for categorical data and Mann-Whitney-U-Tests for continuous data with depression/dysthymia at baseline (T0) as outcome. Since this and the following step only served the detection of possibly relevant variables, we did not correct for multiple testing. Second, all variables with a significant group difference (p < .05) were analyzed group-wise (sociodemographic variables, psychosocial functioning, mental disorders, CHR-P criteria, SIPS main items and symptoms, domain-wise, and SPI-CY variables) in forward and backward stepwise logistic regression analyses with depression/dysthymia at T0 as outcome. Variables that were identified as significant predictors in both forward and backward selection were used for further analyses. Third, using these extracted variables, we performed a cross-sectional blockwise regression analysis with depression/dysthymia at T0 as outcome. Finally, significant and trend-significant variables (p < .10) from this analysis were used for the restricted final cross-sectional blockwise regression analysis with depression/dysthymia at T0 as outcome and for longitudinal blockwise regression analyses with depression/dysthymia at T1 and T2 as outcome, respectively. Internal validation of the regression models was done by the bootstrap method. Statistical analyses were conducted using SPSS version 27.

Results

Prevalence and course of depression/dysthymia

At baseline (T0), a significantly higher rate of depression/dysthymia was found in CHR-P (61.9%) compared to inpatients (38.1%) and community participants (0%) (sTable 1). In 96% of followed-up CHR-P cases with depression/dysthymia at T0, depression/dysthymia persisted until T1 or T2. In addition, in 54.3% of CHR-P cases without depression/dysthymia at T0, it had newly developed by T1 or T2.

Selected variables by group comparisons

Compared to non-depressed participants, depressed participants were older, more likely female, German, or inpatients, higher educated, more likely to suffer from anxiety, substance use disorders, suicidality or CHR-P, showed lower functioning, and more often had divorced parents (sTable 1). Baseline group comparisons led to significant or trend-significant results in ten sociodemographic variables (sTable 1), all functioning variables (sTable 2), eight mental disorders incl. suicidality (sTable 3), twelve CHR-P criteria related variables (sTable 4), 98 SIPS variables (17 main items, 81 symptoms) (sTable 5), and 67 SPI-CY variables (sTable 6), which entered subsequent domain-specific stepwise regression analyses.

Selected variables by domain-specific stepwise logistic regression

From the domain-specific stepwise regression analyses, four sociodemographic variables, one psychosocial functioning variable, four mental disorders, one CHR-P criteria related variable, 22 SIPS variables (three main items, 19 symptoms), and six SPI-CY variables (sTable 7) were selected. These were used for further cross-sectional blockwise logistic regression analysis on depression/dysthymia at T0.

Final cross-sectional model

Nine variables contributed significantly to the prediction of depression/dysthymia at T0 (sTable 8): nationality other than Swiss or German, past anxiety disorder (without specific phobia), current suicidality, avolition (SIPS-N2), dysphoric mood (SIPS-G2), increased stress from daily work (SIPS-N6.1), feeling worthless and/or guilty (SIPS-G2.10), increased emotional reactivity in response to everyday events (SPI-CY-A9), and increased excitability and irritability (SPI-CY-C3). Additional five variables contributed at trend-level significance (p<.10) and were also considered as predictors (sTable 8): current GAF, strange, fantastic or bizarre thoughts (SIPS-D2.1), early waking (SIPS-G1.3), motor blockages (SIPS-G3.6), and decreased ability to discriminate between ideas and perception, fantasy and true memories (SPI-CY-B1).

In the restricted final cross-sectional model (Table 1), these 14 variables explained 73.3% of the variance between patients with and without depression/dysthymia. All variables but decreased ability to discriminate between ideas and perception, fantasy and true memories (SPI-CY-B1) contributed significantly to the classification with Odds Ratios between 0.229 and 14.152 (Table 1). The cross-sectional model classified 92.3% of cases correctly, and had a sensitivity of 71.6%, a specificity of 96.5%, and a positive and negative likelihood ratio (LR) of 20.34 and 0.29, respectively.

Table 1

One-year prospective model

In the one-year prospective model (Table 2), the pre-selected 14 variables explained 56.5% of the variance between patients with and without depression/dysthymia at T1. Dysphoric mood (SIPS-G2) and motor blockages (SIPS-G3.6) contributed significantly to the classification with Odds Ratios between 2.201 and 8.993 (Table 2). The prospective model classified 83.2% of cases correctly, and had a sensitivity of 90.9%, a specificity of 72.3%, and a positive and negative LR of 3.29 and 0.13, respectively.

Table 2

Two-year prospective model

In the two-year prospective model (Table 3), the 14 variables explained 61.6% of the variance between patients with and without depression/dysthymia at T2. Early waking (SIPS-G1.3) and increased excitability and irritability (SPI-CY-C3) at T0 contributed significantly to the classification with Odds

Ratios between 1.605 and 20.437 (Table 3). This prospective model classified 85.9% of cases correctly, and had a sensitivity of 90.2%, a specificity of 80.0%, and a positive and negative LR of 4.51 and 0.12, respectively.

Table 3

Discussion

The aim of this study was to identify psychosocial risk factors and early signs of depression/dysthymia that can predict the occurrence or persistence of depression/dysthymia in CAD with CHR-P within two years. In a stepwise analytical procedure, 14 variables were selected into the final model, one sociodemographic and 13 clinical variables, that varied with respect to their significance over time. While these predicted depression/dysthymia to a large and often conclusive degree at T0 in all three examined groups (positive LR = 20.34), at follow-ups, the model generated only small but sometimes important changes in pretest-probability in the CHR-P group. Yet, the prediction of 'no depression/dysthymia' increased from a small but sometimes important change at T0 to a moderate change in pretest-probability at follow-ups (negative LR < 0.20).

The role of sociodemographic variables

Nationality was the only sociodemographic variable selected into the model. Compared to Swiss nationality, German nationality increased and other nationality decreased the likelihood of baseline depression/dysthymia in the whole sample, although similar prevalence rates for depression/dysthymia of about 7–10% were reported for Switzerland and Germany [27, 28]. This effect was likely due to a sampling bias in disfavour of baseline depression/dysthymia in the total Swiss baseline sample because the general population sample with no case of depression/dysthymia was exclusively recruited in Switzerland. Thus, nationality was no significant predictor for depression/dysthymia in CHR-P patients recruited in both countries at follow-ups. This sampling bias had possibly mediated also the significant negative role of other nationalities at T0, which was also not reproduced in follow-up models.

Interestingly, although depressed participants were significantly older than non-depressed ones at T0, age was not selected into the final model. This may be due to our focus on the vulnerable group of CAD only who are regarded a particular important target for preventive efforts [24, 29–31].

The role of clinical predictors

Of the 13 clinical variables, three were part of the SPI-CY, expectantly, mostly of Adynamia and Neuroticism, and seven were part of the SIPS, expectantly, all but one of them of the Negative and General Symptoms subscale. Additionally, lower current global functioning, current suicidality and any past anxiety disorder (without specific phobia) at T0 were selected into the model.

As with nationality, the significant negative association of current GAF with baseline depression/dysthymia was likely a reflection of sampling bias and due to the inclusion of community

participants with predominately good functioning and without depression/dysthymia, and consequently reflected a general association of low global functioning with mental health problems and disorders.

Suicidality is part of the diagnostic criteria of MD, and current suicidality was predictive of concurrent depression/dysthymia at T0 but not at follow-ups. In the CHR-P sample, suicidality decreased over time in both frequency (T0: 42.5%; T1: 35.9%; T2: 33.8%) and severity (T0: 1/3 low and 1/3 high suicidality; T1: 2/3 low and 2% high suicidality; T2: 3/4 low and no high suicidality), whereas depression/dysthymia increased in frequency. Thus, contrary to metanalytical reports of significantly higher prevalence rates of past but not of recent suicidality in MD compared to non-MD adult patients [32], the association between baseline suicidality and depression/dysthymia weakened over time and past, i.e., baseline suicidality was not a significant predictor of depression/dysthymia at T1 or T2 in our study. This decreasing association might be linked to development, i.e., increasing age, as CAD MD has consistently been linked to increased risk of suicidality compared to adult-onset MD [33]. Another explanation might be a possibly conversed role of depression/dysthymia and suicidality, i.e., that MD might actually be a predictor of suicidality [34]. Thus, newly developed depression/dysthymia at T1 or T2 might not (yet) have resulted in suicidality. This latter interpretation would clearly reinforce calls for an earlier detection and prevention of depressive disorders.

Despite anxiety and depressive disorders being highly comorbid with each other and, together, being considered to belong to the broader category of internalizing disorders [35], past and not current anxiety disorder (without specific phobia) was a significant predictor of depression/dysthymia at T0 but not T1 and T2. This temporal relationship between anxiety and depressive disorders likely reflects differences in age-of-onset. Studies have shown that anxiety disorders mostly precede MD, with anxiety disorders usually beginning in preadolescence and early adolescence, whereas MD typically occurs in adolescence and early to middle adulthood [35]. Therefore, early treatment of anxiety disorders might help to prevent developing depression in the following years [36].

Single symptoms of SPI-CY and SIPS were mostly associated with depression/dysthymia at T0. Only dysphoric mood (SIPS-G2) and motor blockages (SIPS-G3.6) were significant predictors of depression/dysthymia at T1, and early wakening (SIPS-G1.3) and increased excitability and irritability (SPI-CY-C3) were significant predictors of depression/dysthymia at T2. Dysphoric mood (SIPS-G2) can include subthreshold as well as manifest affective disorders by rating phenomena for severity on an assumed continuum from "absent" (0) and "Feeling "down" or edgy often" (1) to "Painfully unpleasant mixtures of depression, irritability, or anxiety that may trigger highly destructive behaviours like suicide attempts or self-mutilation" (6). Thus, higher severity of mood disturbances was predictive of persistence or new occurrence of depression/dysthymia over one year. Additionally, motor blockages (SIPS-G3.6) predicted depression/dysthymia at T0 and T1. These motor blockages were mostly self-reported by CAD as mainly fleeting moments in that an intended movement could not be performed immediately. Studies showed that especially motor retardation or slowing, of that such temporary blockages may represent a severe form, is a core feature of MD [37] and was reported to reflect depression risk in CAD [38], though it did not predict relapse to MD in adults [39].

Insomnia is part of the diagnostic criteria of MD, and insomnia, in particular problems falling and staying asleep and early wakening, was a significant short- and long-term predictor of MD in a recent meta-analysis across the lifespan [40]. Thus, our finding of early wakening being significantly associated with depression/dysthymia at T0 and T2 is well in line with previous studies.

Interestingly, although irritability is considered both an antecedent and a prominent feature of MD in CAD and allowed as a cardinal mood symptom in DSM for CAD only [15, 23, 25, 26], increased excitability and irritability (SPI-CY-C3) was positively associated with depression/dysthymia significantly only at T2 and insignificantly at T1 but negatively associated with depression/dysthymia at T0. This may be due to the particular definition of this BS as an irritability that is immediately self-perceived as a deviation of the person's 'normal' emotional reaction and, thus, often reined in. Thus, the behavioural correlates of irritability (e.g., temper tantrums/outbursts, short temper, sulking, snappiness, or shouting) that are usually assessed [23] may not manifest; and the ability to control acting on excessive emotions because of their immediate recognition may also protect against the development of affective disorders in the short- but not the longer-term, when it may be increasingly lost with growing intensity.

Furthermore, an immediately self-experienced increased emotional reactivity in response to everyday events leading to depressive rumination about the event (SPI-CY-A9), feeling worthless and guilty (SIPS-G2.10), increased stress from daily work (SIPS-N6.1) and avolition manifesting in functional impairments (SIPS-N2) were related to depression/dysthymia at T0 but not predictive of depression/dysthymia at follow-up. These symptoms phenomenologically overlap with diagnostic criteria of MD, i.e., with feeling worthless or excessive/inappropriate guilt and fatigue, respectively, Their lack of a predictive power is in line with findings of a treatment study [39] in that anergia and feelings of guilt were no predictors of relapse of MD.

It is also noteworthy that, contrary to assumptions that CHR-P symptoms and criteria were transdiagnostic risk factors [12], the only CHR-P symptom included in the final model, i.e., decreased ability to discriminate between ideas and perception, fantasy and true memories (SPI-CY-B1) involved in the Cognitive-Perceptive Basic Symptoms criterion, was not significantly and moreover negatively related to depression/dysthymia at T0. A negative association at T0 was also found for strange, fantastic or bizarre thoughts (SIPS-D2.1), a rating of bizarreness that is relevant only in case of potential attenuated psychotic symptoms, i.e., in case of unusual or delusion-like thought contents. This is in line with findings that attenuated psychotic symptoms are linked with the development with psychotic disorders but not non-psychotic affective disorders [41].

Strengths and limitations

The strengths of our study include the prospective design, the focus on CAD, the large sample size and various groups at baseline, including community participants, the assessment of disorders and symptoms in clinical interviews by clinical psychologists, and the assessment of broad spectrum of symptoms, including subjective, subclinical disturbances. The main limitation is the restriction of the prospective models to the CHR-P group; yet, this group had been mostly affected by

depression/dysthymia already at T0 and, additionally, half of the CHR-P patients with both follow-ups had newly developed depression/dysthymia at follow-up. Other limitations are the lack of an independent validation sample and, in case of some symptoms, the low numbers of affirmations, especially in the follow-up samples, that led to problems in the analyses and non-interpretable regression results for some symptoms.

Conclusions

Our study indicated that CAD depression/dysthymia may require different predictors depending on the follow-up time. In doing so, mild symptoms of the depressive spectrum played a major role. Furthermore, in line with findings from other areas of research such as psychosis, the accuracy of ruling out depression/dysthymia seems superior to the accuracy of ruling it in. This might be overcome in future by stepwise approaches that further stratify risk in those initially identified as at increased risk of depression/dysthymia [42].

Declarations

Competing interests

Mr. Styss and Osman, and Drs. Michel, Walger, Franscini, Traber-Walker, Schimmelmann, Flückiger, Romanos, Romer, Schulte-Körne, Greimel, Meisenzahl, Reissner and Schultze-Lutter have no relevant financial or non-financial interests to disclose. The authors have no competing interests to declare that are relevant to the content of this article.

Author Contributions

Drs. Schultze-Lutter and Schimmelmann designed the study; Drs. Walger, Franscini, Traber-Walker, Flückiger and Michel were involved in the acquisition of data; Mr. Styss, Mr. Osman and Dr. Schultze-Lutter analysed and interpreted the data for the work and drafted the first version of this work; all authors revised the article critically for important intellectual content, and agreed to the submitted version.

Acknowledgements

The study was supported by a common research grant of the Swiss National Science Foundation, (No. 144100, lead) and the German Research Foundation (No. 231563730) within the Lead Agency Process.

References

1. Allgaier AK, Krick K, Saravo B, Schulte-Körne G (2014) The Depression Screener for Teenagers (DesTeen): a valid instrument for early detection of adolescent depression in mental health care. Compr Psychiatry 55:1303-1309; https://doi.org/10.1016/j.comppsych.2014.03.006

- 2. Global, regional, and national burden of 12 mental disorders in 204 countries and territories, 1990-2019: a systematic analysis for the Global Burden of Disease Study 2019. Lancet Psychiatry 9:137-150; https://doi.org/10.1016/S2215-0366(21)00395-3
- 3. Baez LM, Heller AS (2020) Impact of age at onset on the phenomenology of depression in treatment-seeking adults in the STAR*D trial. J Affect Disord 262:381-388; https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jad.2019.10.036
- 4. Maughan B, Collishaw S, Stringaris A (2013) Depression in childhood and adolescence. J Can Acad Child Adolesc Psychiatry 22:35-40
- 5. Rice F, Riglin L, Lomax T, Souter E, Potter R, Smith DJ, et al. (2019) Adolescent and adult differences in major depression symptom profiles. J Affect Disord 243:175-181; https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jad.2018.09.015
- 6. Roberts J (2013) Low mood and depression in adolescence: clinical update. Br J Gen Pract 63:273-274; https://doi.org/10.3399%2Fbjgp13X667367
- 7. Kieling C, Buchweitz C, Caye A, Manfro P, Pereira R, Viduani A, et al. (2021) The Identifying Depression Early in Adolescence Risk Stratified Cohort (IDEA-RiSCo): Rationale, Methods, and Baseline Characteristics. Front Psychiatry 12:697144; https://doi.org/10.3389%2Ffpsyt.2021.697144
- Kieling C, Adewuya A, Fisher HL, Karmacharya R, Kohrt BA, Swartz JR, et al. (2019) Identifying depression early in adolescence. Lancet Child Adolesc Health 3:211-213; https://doi.org/10.1016/s2352-4642(19)30059-8
- Noyes BK, Munoz DP, Khalid-Khan S, Brietzke E, Booij L (2022) Is subthreshold depression in adolescence clinically relevant? Journal of Affective Disorders 309:123-130; https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jad.2022.04.067
- 10. Cuijpers P, Pineda BS, Ng MY, Weisz JR, Muñoz RF, Gentili C, et al. (2021) A Meta-analytic Review: Psychological Treatment of Subthreshold Depression in Children and Adolescents. J Am Acad Child Adolesc Psychiatry 60:1072-1084; https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jaac.2020.11.024
- 11. Fusar-Poli P, Borgwardt S, Bechdolf A, Addington J, Riecher-Rössler A, Schultze-Lutter F, et al. (2013) The psychosis high-risk state: a comprehensive state-of-the-art review. JAMA Psychiatry 70:107-120; https://doi.org/10.1001/jamapsychiatry.2013.269
- 12. Schultze-Lutter F, Walger P, Franscini M, Traber-Walker N, Osman N, Walger H, et al. (2022) Clinical high-risk criteria of psychosis in 8-17-year-old community participiants and inpatients not suspected of developing psychosis. World J Psychiatry 12:425-449; http://dx.doi.org/10.5498/wjp.v12.i3.425
- 13. McGlashan TH WB, Woods SW (2010) The psychosis-risk syndrome. Handbook for diagnosis and follow-up. New York: Oxford University
- 14. Cornblatt BA, Auther AM, Niendam T, Smith CW, Zinberg J, Bearden CE, et al. (2007) Preliminary findings for two new measures of social and role functioning in the prodromal phase of schizophrenia. Schizophr Bull 33:688-702; https://doi.org/10.1093/schbul/sbm029
- 15. Sheehan DV, Sheehan KH, Shytle RD, Janavs J, Bannon Y, Rogers JE, et al. (2010) Reliability and validity of the Mini International Neuropsychiatric Interview for Children and Adolescents (MINI-KID).

- J Clin Psychiatry 71:313-326; https://doi.org/10.4088/jcp.09m05305whi
- 16. Vittinghoff E, McCulloch CE (2007) Relaxing the rule of ten events per variable in logistic and Cox regression. Am J Epidemiol 165:710-718; https://doi.org/10.1093/aje/kwk052
- 17. Kessler RC, Bromet EJ (2013) The epidemiology of depression across cultures. Annu Rev Public Health 34:119-138; https://doi.org/10.1146/annurev-publhealth-031912-114409
- 18. Malhi GS, Mann JJ (2018) Depression. Lancet 392:2299-2312; https://doi.org/10.1016/s0140-6736(18)31948-2
- 19. Labaka A, Goñi-Balentziaga O, Lebeña A, Pérez-Tejada J (2018) Biological Sex Differences in Depression: A Systematic Review. Biol Res Nurs 20:383-392; https://doi.org/10.1177/1099800418776082
- 20. Piechaczek CE, Pehl V, Feldmann L, Haberstroh S, Allgaier AK, Freisleder FJ, et al. (2020) Psychosocial stressors and protective factors for major depression in youth: evidence from a case-control study. Child Adolesc Psychiatry Ment Health 14:6; https://doi.org/10.1186/s13034-020-0312-1
- 21. Schultze-Lutter F, Koch E (2010). Schizophrenia Proneness Instrument, Child and Youth version (SPI-CY). Roma, Giovanni Fioriti Editore s.r.l. ISBN 978-88-95930-17-6; https://doi.org/10.1016/j.schres.2013.02.014
- 22. Schultze-Lutter F, Michel C, Schmidt SJ, Schimmelmann BG, Maric NP, Salokangas RK, et al. (2015) EPA guidance on the early detection of clinical high risk states of psychoses. Eur Psychiatry 30:405-416; https://doi.org/10.1016/j.eurpsy.2015.01.010
- 23. Copeland WE, Brotman MA, Costello EJ (2015) Normative Irritability in Youth: Developmental Findings From the Great Smoky Mountains Study. J Am Acad Child Adolesc Psychiatry 54:635-642; https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jaac.2015.05.008
- 24. Elovainio M, Pulkki-Råback L, Jokela M, Kivimäki M, Hintsanen M, Hintsa T, et al. (2012) Socioeconomic status and the development of depressive symptoms from childhood to adulthood: a longitudinal analysis across 27 years of follow-up in the Young Finns study. Soc Sci Med 74:923-929; https://doi.org/10.1016/j.socscimed.2011.12.017
- 25. American Psychiatric Association (1994). Diagnostic and statistical manual of mental disorders: DSM-IV. Washington, American Psychiatric Association.
- 26. Högberg C, Billstedt E, Björck C, Björck P-O, Ehlers S, Gustle L-H, et al. (2019) Diagnostic validity of the MINI-KID disorder classifications in specialized child and adolescent psychiatric outpatient clinics in Sweden. BMC Psychiatry 19:142; https://doi.org/10.1186/s12888-019-2121-8
- 27. Sjöberg L, Karlsson B, Atti AR, Skoog I, Fratiglioni L, Wang HX (2017) Prevalence of depression: Comparisons of different depression definitions in population-based samples of older adults. J Affect Disord 221:123-131; https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jad.2017.06.011
- 28. Wirz-Justice A, Ajdacic V, Rössler W, Steinhausen HC, Angst J (2019) Prevalence of seasonal depression in a prospective cohort study. Eur Arch Psychiatry Clin Neurosci 269:833-839; https://doi.org/10.1007/s00406-018-0921-3

- 29. Ghio L, Gotelli S, Cervetti A, Respino M, Natta W, Marcenaro M, et al. (2015) Duration of untreated depression influences clinical outcomes and disability. J Affect Disord 175:224-228; https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jad.2015.01.014
- 30. Mendelson T, Tandon SD (2016) Prevention of Depression in Childhood and Adolescence. Child Adolesc Psychiatr Clin N Am 25:201-218; https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chc.2015.11.005
- 31. Herzog DP, Wagner S, Engelmann J, Treccani G, Dreimüller N, Müller MB, et al. (2021) Early onset of depression and treatment outcome in patients with major depressive disorder. J Psychiatr Res 139:150-158; https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jpsychires.2021.05.048
- 32. Cai H, Xie XM, Zhang Q, Cui X, Lin JX, Sim K, et al. (2021) Prevalence of Suicidality in Major Depressive Disorder: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis of Comparative Studies. Front Psychiatry 12:690130; https://doi.org/10.3389/fpsyt.2021.690130
- 33. Williams JM, Barnhofer T, Crane C, Duggan DS, Shah D, Brennan K, et al. (2012) Pre-adult onset and patterns of suicidality in patients with a history of recurrent depression. J Affect Disord 138:173-179; https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jad.2011.12.011
- 34. Wiebenga JX, Eikelenboom M, Heering HD, van Oppen P, Penninx BW (2021) Suicide ideation versus suicide attempt: Examining overlapping and differential determinants in a large cohort of patients with depression and/or anxiety. Aust N Z J Psychiatry 55:167-179; https://doi.org/10.1177/0004867420951256
- 35. Kalin NH (2020) The Critical Relationship Between Anxiety and Depression. Am J Psychiatry 177:365-367; https://doi.org/10.1176/appi.ajp.2020.20030305
- 36. Tiller JW (2013) Depression and anxiety. Med J Aust 199:S28-31; https://doi.org/10.5694/mja12.10628
- 37. Caligiuri MP, Ellwanger J (2000) Motor and cognitive aspects of motor retardation in depression. J Affect Disord 57:83-93; https://doi.org/10.1016/s0165-0327(99)00068-3
- 38. Damme KSF, Park JS, Walther S, Vargas T, Shankman SA, Mittal VA (2022) Depression and Psychosis Risk Shared Vulnerability for Motor Signs Across Development, Symptom Dimensions, and Familial Risk. Schizophr Bull 48:752-762; https://doi.org/10.1093%2Fschbul%2Fsbab133
- 39. Taylor DJ, Walters HM, Vittengl JR, Krebaum S, Jarrett RB (2010) Which depressive symptoms remain after response to cognitive therapy of depression and predict relapse and recurrence? J Affect Disord 123:181-187; https://doi.org/10.1016%2Fj.jad.2009.08.007
- 40. Zhang MM, Ma Y, Du LT, Wang K, Li Z, Zhu W, et al. (2022) Sleep disorders and non-sleep circadian disorders predict depression: A systematic review and meta-analysis of longitudinal studies.

 Neurosci Biobehav Rev 134:104532; https://doi.org/10.1016/j.neubiorev.2022.104532
- 41. Schultze-Lutter F, Schimmelmann BG, Klosterkötter J, Ruhrmann S (2012) Comparing the prodrome of schizophrenia-spectrum psychoses and affective disorders with and without psychotic features. Schizophr Res 138:218-222; https://doi.org/10.1016/j.schres.2012.04.001
- 42. Schultze-Lutter F, Meisenzahl E (2023) The clinical high-risk of psychosis approach as an emerging model for precision prevention in psychiatry. Eur Neuropsychopharmacol 76:17-19;

- https://doi.org/10.1016/j.euroneuro.2023.07.004
- 43. Fox J (2008) Applied regression analysis and generalized linear models. (2nd ed.). Sage Publications, Inc; http://www.ievbras.ru/ecostat/Kiril/R/Biblio_N/R_Eng/Fox2016.pdf. Accessed 01 January 2008

Tables

Table 1. Final model of depression/dysthymia at T0 in the whole sample (N=676), blockwise logistic regression analysis.

	Beta	SE	Wald	df	Pa	Exp (Beta)	95% Cl; lower	95% CI; upper
Nationality (reference: Swiss)			15.190	2	<0.001			
German	1.022	0.406	6.343	1	0.023	2.778	1.254	6.152
Other	-1.474	0.698	4.456	1	0.008	0.229	0.058	0.900
Current GAF	-0.047	0.021	4.787	1	0.029	0.954	0.915	0.995
Past anxiety disorder without specific phobia	1.573	0.815	3.722	1	0.043 ^b	4.819	0.975	23.814
Current suicidality	1.269	0.399	10.116	1	0.005	3.557	1.627	7.773
SIPS-N2 Avolition	0.579	0.152	14.594	1	<0.001	1.784	1.326	2.401
SIPS-G2 Dysphoric mood	0.790	0.199	15.811	1	<0.001	2.204	1.493	3.254
SIPS-N6.1 Increased stress from daily work	0.957	0.402	5.665	1	0.024	2.605	1.184	5.731
SIPS-D2.1 Strange, fantastic or bizarre thoughts	-1.344	0.548	6.010	1	0.006	0.261	0.089	0.764
SIPS-G1.3 Early waking	1.028	0.428	5.766	1	0.020	2.796	1.208	6.472
SIPS-G2.10 Feeling worthless and / or guilty	0.946	0.399	5.625	1	0.028	2.574	1.178	5.623
SIPS-G3.6 Motor blockages	2.650	1.192	4.938	1	0.002	14.152	1.367	146.511
SPI-CY-A9 Increased emotional reactivity in response to everyday events	0.376	0.110	11.664	1	<0.001	1.456	1.174	1.807
SPI-CY-B1 Decreased ability to discriminate between ideas and perception, fantasy and true memories	-0.269	0.170	2.518	1	0.138	0.764	0.548	1.065
SPI-CY-C3 Increased excitability and irritability	-0.207	0.089	5.424	1	0.022	0.813	0.682	0.968

Reference group: children and adolescents without depression or dysthymia at T0.

GoF: $\chi^2(15)$ =372.290; p<0.001; Nagelkerke´s R²=0.733.

SIPS= Structured Interview for Psychosis-Risk Syndromes; SPI-CY=Schizophrenia Proneness Instrument, Child & Youth version

Table 2. Prediction of depression/dysthymia at T1 by the final model in the CHR-P subsample (N=117), blockwise logistic regression analysis.

^a Values from Bootstrapping (N=1000).

^b Because bootstrapping does not require distributional assumptions, the bootstrap provides more accurate inferences when the data are not well behaved, e.g., including little events, or when the sample size is small [43]. Thus, we followed the bootstrapping results, and considered variables significant predictors if the bootstrapping became significant, even if these were non-significant in the initial regression analysis and, therefore, included the 1 within the 95%-Cl.

	Beta	SE	Wald	df	Pa	Exp (Beta)	95% Cl; lower	95% CI; upper
Nationality (reference: Swiss)			1.118	2	0.572			
German	-0.356	0.649	0.301	1	0.619	0.700	0.196	2.498
Other	-0.917	0.869	1.113	1	0.406	0.400	0.073	2.195
Current GAF	0.033	0.033	1.031	1	0.350	1.034	0.970	1.103
Past anxiety disorder without specific phobia	-0.047	1.028	0.002	1	0.818	0.954	0.127	7.148
Current suicidality	-0.410	0.700	0.343	1	0.592	0.664	0.169	2.616
SIPS-N2 Avolition	0.127	0.246	0.265	1	0.569	1.135	0.701	1.839
SIPS-G2 Dysphoric mood	0.789	0.286	7.591	1	0.006	2.201	1.256	3.857
SIPS-N6.1 Increased stress from daily work	1.384	0.742	3.477	1	0.069	3.990	0.932	17.082
SIPS-D2.1 Strange, fantastic or bizarre thoughts	0.383	0.656	0.341	1	0.595	1.467	0.405	5.307
SIPS-G1.3 Early waking	-0.093	0.634	0.021	1	0.900	0.912	0.263	3.157
SIPS-G2.10 Feeling worthless and / or guilty	0.790	0.626	1.591	1	0.256	2.204	0.646	7.524
SIPS-G3.6 Motor blockages	2.196	1.465	2.249	1	0.021 ^b	8.993	0.509	158.727
SPI-CY-A9 Increased emotional reactivity in response to everyday events	0.167	0.158	1.114	1	0.367	1.182	0.867	1.611
SPI-CY-B1 Decreased ability to discriminate between ideas and perception, fantasy and true memories	0.297	0.214	1.927	1	0.169	1.345	0.885	2.045
SPI-CY-C3 Increased excitability and irritability	0.207	0.130	2.541	1	0.191	1.230	0.954	1.585

Reference group: children and adolescents without depression or dysthymia at T1.

GoF: $\chi^2(15)$ =61.437; p<0.001; Nagelkerke's R²=0.565.

SIPS= Structured Interview for Psychosis-Risk Syndromes; SPI-CY=Schizophrenia Proneness Instrument, Child & Youth version

Table 3. Prediction of depression/dysthymia at T2 by the final model in the CHR-P subsample (N=73), blockwise logistic regression analysis.

	Beta	SE	Wald	df	Pa	Exp (Beta)	95% Cl; lower	95% CI; upper
Nationality (reference: Swiss)			1.475	2	0.478			
German	-1.161	0.958	1.468	1	0.284	0.313	0.048	2.048
Other	-0.777	1.231	0.399	1	0.405	0.460	0.041	5.129
Current GAF	-0.039	0.054	0.525	1	0.477	0.962	0.866	1.068
Past anxiety disorder without specific phobia	-0.873	1.834	0.226	1	0.265	0.418	0.011	15.223
Current suicidality	-0.761	1.278	0.354	1	0.457	0.467	0.038	5.723
SIPS-N2 Avolition	0.182	0.373	0.237	1	0.565	1.199	0.577	2.493
SIPS-G2 Dysphoric mood	0.066	0.332	0.039	1	0.714	1.068	0.557	2.048
SIPS-N6.1 Increased stress from daily work	1.627	0.994	2.678	1	0.124	5.088	0.725	35.709
SIPS-D2.1 Strange, fantastic or bizarre thoughts	-0.309	0.963	0.103	1	0.623	0.734	0.111	4.841
SIPS-G1.3 Early waking	3.017	1.170	6.648	1	0.006	20.437	2.062	202.563
SIPS-G2.10 Feeling worthless and / or guilty	1.812	1.127	2.587	1	0.059	6.122	0.673	55.691
SIPS-G3.6 Motor blockages	2.259	1.780	1.610	1	0.088	9.571	0.292	313.588
SPI-CY-A9 Increased emotional reactivity in response to everyday events	-0.007	0.224	0.001	1	0.812	0.993	0.640	1.542
SPI-CY-B1 Decreased ability to discriminate between ideas and perception, fantasy and true memories	-0.270	0.273	0.977	1	0.298	0.763	0.447	1.304
SPI-CY-C3 Increased excitability and irritability	0.473	0.211	5.007	1	0.004	1.605	1.060	2.429

^a Values from Bootstrapping (N=999).

^b See footnote Table 1.

Reference group: children and adolescents without depression or dysthymia at T2.

GoF: $\chi^2(15)=43.558$; p<0.001; Nagelkerke's R²=0.616.

SIPS= Structured Interview for Psychosis-Risk Syndromes; SPI-CY=Schizophrenia Proneness Instrument, Child & Youth version

^a Values from Bootstrapping (N=984).

Supplementary Files

This is a list of supplementary files associated with this preprint. Click to download.

• SupplementsPredictionofMDinCADStyss.docx