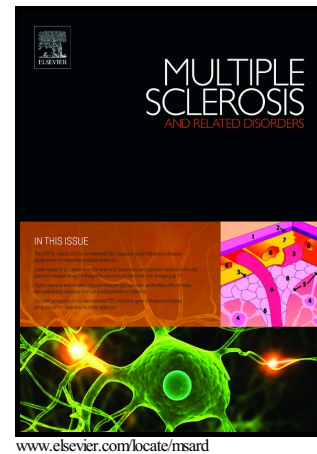


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Pulse Steroid Therapy in Multiple Sclerosis and Mood Changes: an exploratory prospective study

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Abstract.

Background.

Several reports suggest a higher risk of psychiatric disorders after high-dose corticosteroids (HDC), routinely used to treat clinical relapses in multiple sclerosis (MS).

The present study aimed to examine the possible effect of HDC on mood in patients with MS and to determine the specific factors that influence mood changes.

Methods.

The study included MS patients prior to receive HDC. The presence of depressive and bipolar symptoms was determined with the Beck Depression Inventory-Second Edition (BDI-II) and the Mood Disorder Questionnaire (MDQ). These assessments were made at three time points: prior to HDC initiation, after HDC completion, and 1 month after HDC.

Results.

The study included 101 MS patients. At baseline, 32 (31.7%) patients had depressive symptoms (BDI-II scores ≥ 14) and 20 (19.8%) patients had bipolar symptoms (MDQ scores ≥ 7). While it was observed a reduction of BDI-II scores after HDC, an increase in MDQ score was found in patients

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