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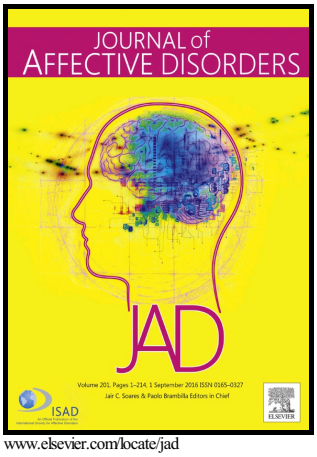

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Is very low infant birth weight a predictor for a five-year course of depression in parents? A latent growth curve model

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Abstract

Background

A very low birth weight (VLBW) is considered as a significant risk factor for early-onset developmental problems in infants, but is also discussed as a potential risk factor for the development of depressive symptoms in affected parents.

Methods

In this study, the 5-year courses of maternal and paternal depression with VLBW and term born infants (n = 250 families) are modeled and predicted by factors existing at the time of birth.

Results

The dyadic trajectories of depression could be best described by five classes (I no depression, II minor maternal depression, III increasing dyadic depression, IV significant maternal depression, V highly depressed mothers). VLBW was a significant predictor for the course of parental depression - even under control of preexisting psychiatric disorders and other confounders. Interaction effects and a dose-response relationship were not existent.

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