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### *Abstrakt v češtině*

Projekt je zaměřen poznání souvislosti mitochondriálních patofyziologických procesů s psychopatologickými příznaky při bipolární afektivní poruše (BPD). Změny aktivity vybraných složek dýchacího řetězce a celková respirační rychlost byly měřeny u pacientů s bipolární afektivní poruchou v porovnání s kontrolní skupinou. Byly použity diagnostické dotazníky, respirometrie s vysokým rozlišením a metody radiochemické a spektroskopické. Analýzy provedeny u 21 zdravých kontrol a 37 osob s diagnózou bipolární afektivní poruchy (F31). Statistická analýza zahrnovala parametrické a neparametrické analýzy, faktorovou analýzu, jednocestnou analýzu rozptylu a lineární regresní analýzu. Získané výsledky ukázaly velkou roli buněčné energetiky v patofyziologii bipolární poruchy. Mírný rozdíl mezi různými aktivitami mitochondriálních enzymů byl získán u pacientů s manickou a depresivní epizodou onemocnění. Byly také prokázány změny mitochondriálního dýchání u pacientů s BPD ve srovnání se zdravými kontrolami. Mitochondriální respirační indexy u pacientů v remisi ve srovnání se zdravými kontrolními osobami byly změněny v souvislosti s předchozí fází onemocnění. Byla zjištěna souvislost mezi stavem onemocnění, psychopatologickými příznaky, klinickým zlepšením a mitochondriální patologií. Byla stanovena doba trvání mezi akutním manickým stavem a remisí a její závislost na indikátorech mitochondriální patologie.

This study investigates the connection between different pathophysiological processes in mitochondria and psychopathological symptoms in patients with bipolar disorder. Changes in activity of selected components of the respiratory chain and overall respiratory rate of mitochondria were analyzed in patients with bipolar disorder when compared to healthy controls. Diagnostic scales and questionnaires, high-resolution respirometry, radiochemical and spectroscopic methods were used. 37 patients with a diagnosis of bipolar disorder (F31) and 21 healthy volunteers were involved in the study. Statistical analysis included the methods of parametric and nonparametric analysis, factor analysis, one-way analysis of variance and linear regression analysis. Obtained results revealed that cellular energetics plays a great role in the pathophysiology of bipolar disorder. There was a mild difference between different mitochondrial enzymes activity in patients within manic phases and depressive phases of the disease. Changes in mitochondrial respiration in patients with BD as compared to healthy controls were also shown. Mitochondrial respiration indexes for patients with BD in remission as compared to healthy controls were altered in accordance with the previous phase of the disease. Association between the state of the disease, psychopathological symptoms, clinical improvement and mitochondrial pathology was established. The duration period between the acute manic state and remission and its dependence on the mitochondrial pathology indicators was established.

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## 1. Úvod

Mental disorders are a big group of complex and serious diseases affecting mainly the psychic sphere and are characterized by a high prevalence, difficulties with the diagnosis, high levels of disability and mortality, a significant societal cost and different serious risks for the patients.

During the last decades many publications revealed an increasing need for further research on this topic because of characteristics such as frequent life-threatening conditions, urgent intervention requirement, clinical pathomorphosis, prolonged duration and a delayed treatment response postulate a problem of mental disorders as one of the central problems of modern psychiatry and general medical practice. Psychopathological symptoms also often cause a significant impairment of social functioning which may have an irreversible affect on patient's life.

Although research is ongoing many important questions still remain open. Questions of early diagnosis and prevention, clinical assessment of the symptoms, therapeutic approaches and pathomorphological mechanisms undermining the disease continue to be unanswered. One of these questions is a comprehensive study of typical pathogenetic features

associated with the psychopathological symptoms of the disease, including cell mechanisms.

Cell respiration in psychiatric disorders had been a subject of large research interest for many years as the nerve tissue is highly dependent on oxidative metabolism because of a high energy demand and thus the brain is extremely vulnerable to an insufficient ATP production. Many researchers found evidence for mitochondrial dysfunction and oxidative stress in different mental disorders, although most of the patients do not have any 'classical' mitochondrial disease.

Mood disorders are one of the main focuses in mitochondria-related research since 2000 when Dr. Kato offered a mitochondrial hypothesis based on the findings that patients with bipolar disorder have an abnormal energy metabolism and abnormal mitochondrial DNA in the brain.

Mood disorders (depressive, manic and bipolar disorders) are very common illnesses, often with recurrent or chronic courses. Their pathophysiology is not yet well known. There is currently no reliable biochemical, genetic, physiological or other biological test to diagnose bipolar affective disorder or to predict the success of pharmacotherapy.

The etiology of mood disorders, including BPD, remains uncertain. Both genetic background and environmental factors, such as stressful life events or substance abuse, are

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related to the risk of development of BPD (Uher R, 2014). Insights into the processes underlying neuroprogression in BPD have been provided by studies examining genetic and epigenetic changes, structural and functional changes in the brain, damage in neuronal circuits, disturbed circadian rhythms, changes in immune and endocrine systems, impairment in neuronal plasticity and resilience, increased apoptosis, disturbances of synaptic transmission and signal transduction, activation of neurotoxic mechanisms, and changes in neurogenesis (Berk M et al, 2014). Pathways underlying neuroprogression in BPD include the dopaminergic system, inflammatory cytokines, oxidative and nitrosative stress, mitochondrial dysfunction and endoplasmic reticulum stress, alterations in cAMP response element-binding protein (CREB) and neurotrophic system, dysregulation of calcium signaling, neuroinflammation, autoimmune processes, tryptophan and tryptophan metabolites, and hypothalamic–pituitary–adrenal (HPA) axis dysregulation. (Berk M et al, 2011; Anderson G, Maes M, 2015; Andreazza AC, Young LT, 2014)

Research for biological markers of bipolar affective disorder is based on a current mood hypothesis that the activity of monoaminergic neurotransmitter systems, energy cell metabolism, growth factor and other components affecting neuronal plasticity. Nerve cells need an extraordinarily large

amount of cellular energy to provide for the synthesis of molecules that allow them to receive, process and transmit information, develop axonal and dendritic branches, and create new synaptic connections. Therefore, the hypothesis of mitochondrial dysfunction is a prospective hypothesis for a number of diseases including bipolar affective disorder.

The aim of the following research is to determine the connection between selected mitochondrial functions and psychopathological symptoms during the disease, i.e. in manic, depressive and remission episodes of the bipolar disorder.

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## 2. Hypotézy a cíle práce

The review was focused on the data revealing multiple connections between different signs and symptoms of mental disorders and various mitochondrial pathology. We can now see that the interpretation of all these data requires careful attention because it is partially controversial and some effects were observed in certain brain regions which can possibly indicate a result of other influences and not necessarily indicate a direct cause-and-effect relationship. Obviously the role of mitochondria in the pathogenesis of mental disorders is very complicated and might be different in different brain regions with maximum observed effects in the most vulnerable domains for each disease.

Some promising results were obtained leading to perspective studies addressing deeper connections between mitochondrial functions and the pathology of mood disorders. A complex view of the pathology of mood disorders and the role of mitochondria in them is crucially important to develop new diagnostic tools and various therapeutic strategies for this group of devastating diseases. Mitochondrial parameters can be also evaluated as biological markers of bipolar disorder, one of the mood disorders.

Summarizing various connections between pathophysiological processes in bipolar disorder and mitochondrial dysfunctions, we state a purpose for the study: to explore how energy metabolism in mitochondria corresponds to clinical evaluation of psychopathological symptoms in patients with bipolar disorder.

Hypotheses of the study:

Hypothesis 1. There is a set of mitochondrial functional impairment indexes specific for the current phase of the disorder.

Hypothesis 2. The severity of the symptoms of bipolar disorder is associated with the severity of the alteration of the mitochondrial function.

Hypothesis 3. There is a difference in the levels of mitochondrial respiration and enzyme activity in manic state and depressive state.

Hypothesis 4. There is a difference in the levels of mitochondrial respiration and enzyme activity in patients with BPD and healthy controls in both the acute state and remission.

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### 3. Materiál a metodika

#### 3.1. Study design and participants

37 patients with diagnosis of bipolar disorder (F31) according to ICD-10 were recruited from acute wards of the Department of Psychiatry of the First Faculty of Medicine, Charles University and General University Hospital in Prague and repeatedly tested using different psychopathology scales and blood platelets analysis methods (measurement 1 – acute phase, measurement 2 – remission). The control group consisted of 21 healthy volunteers matched by age and gender tested once using blood platelets analysis methods. Demographic data was collected for each person.

The included criteria were as follows:

- all in-patients and out-patients are already treated for BPD (at least second current episode);
- acute state;
- within one week upon hospitalization;
- diagnosis of the BPD – F31 (phase manic, depressive, remission);
- age 18-65.

The excluded criteria were as follows:

- additional diagnosis of any listed in F10-F19, F20-F29, F70-F79;
- psychoactive substance abuse;
- organic brain damage;
- significant cognitive impairment;
- history of medication abuse of any kind;
- diagnosis of cancer or any neoplastic disease within the last 3 years;
- a diagnosed mitochondrial disorder;
- constantly taking medicines such as coenzyme Q, L-carnitine, vitamin E, chloramphenicol, doxycycline, ofloxacin, ciprofloxacin, perofloxacin, azathioprine, cyclosporine, tacrolimus, everolimus, monoclonal antibodies, amiodarone, statins, levomepromazine, haloperidol;
- participation in any study involving investigational drug within the last 3 months.

The study was carried out according to the principles expressed in the Declaration of Helsinki and the study protocol was approved by the Ethical Review Board of the First Faculty of Medicine and General University Hospital in Prague, Czech Republic. Written informed consent was obtained from all participants.

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### 3.2. Questionnaires and scales

All patients included were screened for bipolar disorder using the mood disorder questionnaire (MDQ) (Hirschfeld RM et al, 2000).

The Mood Disorder Questionnaire is a brief, self-report screening instrument for bipolar disorder with both good sensitivity and very good specificity which includes 13 questions plus items assessing clustering of symptoms and functional impairment.

Severity of current depression was tested using the MADRS (Montgomery–Åsberg Depression Rating Scale).

MADRS is a ten-item diagnostic questionnaire which psychiatrists use to measure the severity of depressive episodes in patients with mood disorders. It was designed in 1979 by British and Swedish researchers as an adjunct to the Hamilton Rating Scale for Depression to be more sensitive to the changes brought on by antidepressants and other forms of treatment than the Hamilton Scale.

A higher MADRS score indicates more severe depression, and each item yields a score of 0 to 6. The overall score ranges from 0 to 60. The questionnaire includes questions on the following symptoms 1. Apparent sadness 2. Reported sadness 3. Inner tension 4. Reduced sleep 5. Reduced appetite

6. Concentration difficulties 7. Lassitude 8. Inability to feel 9. Pessimistic thoughts 10. Suicidal thoughts.

Severity of current mania was tested using the Young Scale of Mania (YMRS).

YMRS is one of the most frequently utilized rating scales to assess manic symptoms. The scale has 11 items and is based on the patient's subjective report of his or her clinical condition over the previous 48 hours. There are four items that are graded on a 0 to 8 scale (irritability, speech, thought content, and disruptive/aggressive behavior), while the remaining seven items are graded on a 0 to 4 scale. These four items are given twice the weight of the others to compensate for poor cooperation from severely ill patients. The scale is generally done by a clinician or trained rater with expertise of manic patients and takes 15–30 minutes to complete.

#### Severity of illness

General severity of illness was assessed using Clinical Global Impression - Improvement scale (CGI-I). CGI-I is a 7-point scale that requires the clinician to rate the improvement of the patient's mental illness at the time of assessment, relative to the clinician's past experience with patients who have the same diagnosis.

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Psychopathology symptoms were evaluated twice during the illness (before treatment, in acute state, and during treatment, in remission).

### 3.3. Laboratory methods

Peripheral blood samples were taken from the antecubital vein of each participant between 7:00 and 8:00 am, when all subjects were nicotine- and coffee-free, before their morning medications. 24 milliliters of blood were drawn into BD Vacutainer® blood collection tubes with anticoagulant. Platelet rich plasma was separated by centrifugation at 200×g for 10 min at 25 °C. Platelets were counted by microscopy using a counting chamber and immediately used for measuring of mitochondrial parameters.

The energy metabolism related to mitochondrial dysfunctions was analyzed in biochemical laboratories (First Faculty of Medicine). Selected mitochondrial parameters (citrate synthase and electron transport chain complexes activities, ATP production and mitochondrial respiratory rate) and functional changes in monoaminergic system (MAO activity, serotonin uptake) were measured in peripheral blood components. High-resolution respirometry, fluorescence, radiochemical and spectrophotometric methods were used.

Complexes of ETS – complex I, II, II+III and IV and citrate synthase were measured spectrophotometrically (Hroudová and Fišar, 2010). The relative activities of mitochondrial complexes were expressed as a ratio between specific enzyme activities and citrate synthase serving as the control mitochondrial matrix enzyme.

Mitochondrial respiration was evaluated by both respiratory rate and respiratory control ratios (RCRs) using high resolution respirometry using (oxygraph) with Clark type oxygen electrodes (Fišar et al., 2016). Respiratory rate was determined as time derivation of oxygen concentration in the sample and RCRs was calculated as ratios of respiratory rates measured before and after substrates and/or inhibitors of OXPHOS.

### 3.4. Statistical methods

The study materials were statistically processed using the methods of parametric and nonparametric analysis in accordance with the results of testing the compared populations for normal distribution. Accumulation, corrections and systematization of the initial information and results visualization were performed in Microsoft Office Excel 2010.

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The statistical analysis was performed using the IBM SPSS Statistics v.20 program.

Each of the comparable sets of quantitative data was evaluated for compliance with the standard normal distribution law using the Shapiro-Wilk test which is recommended when a number of subjects are less than 60. The data distribution histogram, asymmetry and kurtosis parameters were also taken into account.

If a normal distribution of quantitative data was confirmed, the obtained data was combined into a variation series, in which the arithmetic mean values (M) and the standard deviations ( $\sigma$ ) were calculated. The analysis was performed using the parametrical statistics method.

If the quantitative data distribution was non normal, the obtained data was described using the median (Me) and the lower and upper quartiles (Q1 and Q3). The analysis was performed using the nonparametric statistics method.

To assess the statistical significance of the differences in the mean values of normally distributed populations, the Student t-test was calculated (1):

$$t = \frac{M_1 - M_2}{\sqrt{m_1^2 + m_2^2}}, \quad (1)$$

where:  $M_1$  and  $M_2$  – compared averages,  $m_1$  and  $m_2$  – standard errors of the average values.

When comparing the average values calculated for dependent populations (for example, before treatment and after treatment values), the paired Student t-test was calculated (2):

$$t = \frac{\overline{X}_D - \mu_0}{\frac{s_D}{\sqrt{n}}}, \quad (2)$$

where:  $X_D$  - the average,  $s_D$  - standard deviation of those differences,  $\mu_0$  - non-zero. The degree of freedom used is  $n - 1$ , where  $n$  represents the number of pairs.

The obtained values of Student t-test were compared with critical values. Differences were considered statistically significant at a significance level of  $p < 0.05$ .

To compare independent sets of quantitative data with a non normal distribution the Mann-Whitney U test was used. First a single ranked series from both of the compared samples were formed, where elements were sorted according to the value increase. A smaller rank was attributed to a smaller value. Then a single ranked series was divided into two, consisting, respectively, of the first and second samples units. The rank amounts were counted separately for each of the series. The Mann-Whitney U test was calculated (3):

$$U = n_1 \cdot n_2 + \frac{n_x \cdot (n_x + 1)}{2} - T_x, \quad (3)$$

where  $n_1$  - number of elements in sample 1,  $n_2$  -

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number of elements in sample 2,  $n_x$  – number of elements in the bigger sample, and  $T_x$  – ranks sum for the bigger sample.

The calculated Mann-Whitney U test values were assessed by comparing them with the critical values: whether the calculated value was less or equal to the critical one, the statistical significance of the differences was accepted.

To assess the differences between two compared pairs of samples with a non normal distribution the Wilcoxon W-test was used. The change value was calculated for each patient. All the changes were ordered according to the absolute value. Then the signs of change ("+" or "-") were assigned to ranks and the ranks were summed up for each sign. The smaller rank amount (W) was compared to the W test critical value: whether the calculated value was less or equal to the critical one, the statistical significance of the differences was accepted.

To compare several groups of the patients (more than 2), a one-way analysis of variance was used. To assess the statistical significance of the differences the Fisher F test was calculated (4):

$$F = \frac{Q_1 / (m - 1)}{Q_2 / (n - m)} \quad (4)$$

where  $Q_1$  – sum of the sample means to overall average squared deviations,  $Q_2$  – sum of the observed values squared deviations,  $n$  – number of the elements, and  $m$  – number of the samples.

If the calculated value of Fisher's F test was less than critical, we made the conclusion that there was no statistically significant effect of the studied factor on the mean values of the trait. If the calculated value of Fisher's F test was larger than critical, the significant influence of the independent factor on the mean values for a certain level of statistical significance was recognized.

If statistically significant differences between groups existed, an additional pair comparison of the populations using the a posteriori criterion of Scheffe was carried out. To check the tightness of the relationship of the quantitative indicators the linear correlation coefficient  $r_{xy}$  of Pearson was calculated (5):

$$r_{xy} = \frac{\sum(x - \bar{x})(y - \bar{y})}{\sqrt{\sum(x - \bar{x})^2 \cdot \sum(y - \bar{y})^2}} \quad (5)$$

To evaluate the quality of the linear function selection, the square of the linear correlation coefficient  $R^2$  (the coefficient of determination) was calculated. The coefficient of determination shows the percent of factors considered in the model.

For the evaluation of the statistical significance of the correlation coefficient t-test was calculated (6):

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$$t_r = \frac{r_{xy}}{\sqrt{1 - r_{xy}^2}} \cdot \sqrt{n - 2} \quad (6)$$

The obtained value was compared with the critical value for a certain level of significance and the number of degrees of freedom  $n-2$ . If the calculated value of  $t_r$  was larger than  $t_{crit}$ , a certain level of statistical significance was recognized.

The values of the correlation coefficient were interpreted in accordance with the Chaddock scale (Tab. 1)

Tab. 1. The determination of the closeness of the correlation relationships, Chaddock scale

Coefficient	Quality characteristic
<0,1	no relationships
0,1 – 0,3	weak
0,3 – 0,5	moderate
0,5 – 0,7	salient
0,7 – 0,9	high
0,9 – 0,99	very high

To assess the dependence of one quantitative parameter to others, the linear regression method was used, and the reduced equation of the following kind was given (7):

$$y = a_0 + a_1x_1 + \dots + a_nx_n, \quad (7)$$

where  $y$  – quantitative trait,  $x_1...x_n$  – factor traits,  $a_0$  – constant,  $a_1...a_n$  – regression coefficients, showing the average change in the result  $y$  with a change in the factor  $x$  by one unit.

The obtained regression model allows us to calculate the theoretical values of the effective sign  $y$  from the given values of the factor  $x$ .

To compare the nominal scale values Pearson  $\chi^2$  test was used. It allows us to assess the significance of the differences between the actual number of outcomes or qualitative characteristics of a sample falling into each category, and the theoretical amount that can be expected in the study groups when a null hypothesis is valid.

First, the expected number of observations in each of the cells of the conjugacy table was calculated, provided that the null hypothesis of the absence of an interrelation was valid. For this purpose, the sums of rows and columns (marginal totals) were multiplied with the subsequent division of the obtained product by the total number of observations.

Then the value of the  $\chi^2$  was calculated (8):

$$\chi^2 = \sum_{i=1}^r \sum_{j=1}^c \frac{(O_{ij} - E_{ij})^2}{E_{ij}} \quad (8)$$

where  $i$  – the row number (from 1 to  $r$ ),  $j$  – the column number (from 1 to  $c$ )  $O_{ij}$  – actual number of observations in the cell  $ij$ , and  $E_{ij}$  – the expected number of observations in the cell  $ij$ .

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Then the value of the Pearson  $\chi^2$  test was compared to the critical values for  $(r-1) \times (c-1)$  number of degrees of freedom. If the obtained value was larger than critical, a certain level of statistical significance was recognized and a statistical relationship between the studied risk factor and the outcome was confirmed.

For the four-field table analysis, when the number of expected observations in any of the cells of the four-field table was less than 10, the  $\chi^2$  test with the Yates correction was calculated. It reduces the risk of the first type error, i.e., detection of non-existent differences. The Yeats correction includes subtracting 0.5 from the absolute value of the difference between the actual and expected number of observations in each cell, which leads to a decrease in the  $\chi^2$  test value (9):

$$\chi^2 = \sum_{i=1}^r \sum_{j=1}^c \frac{(|O_{ij} - E_{ij}| - 0,5)^2}{E_{ij}} \quad (9)$$

To estimate the significance of the differences when the number of expected observations in any of the cells of the four-field table was less than 5, an accurate Fisher P test was calculated (10):

$$P = \frac{(A+B)!(C+D)!(A+C)!(B+D)!}{A!B!C!D!N!}, \quad (10)$$

where A, B, C, D – actual numbers of observations in the cells of the contingency table, N – total number of the participants, and ! – a factorial, equal to the multiplication of a number by a sequence of numbers, each of which is less than previous by 1.

An obtained value of Fisher's exact P test more than 0.05 indicated the absence of statistically significant differences. An obtained value of Fisher's exact P test less than 0.05 indicated their presence.

To compare the relative values characterizing the associated populations (at the beginning and at the end of the observation) the McNemar test was used. It is used to determine whether any changes in the distribution structure values of two dependent variables occur (11):

$$Q = \frac{(b - c)^2}{b + c} \quad (11)$$

where  $Q$  – McNemar test,  $b$  – the number of patients with a negative result in the first observation and positive result in the second, and  $c$  – the number of patients with a positive result in the first observation and negative result in the second.

The McNemar test values were interpreted by comparison with critical values.

To identify factors that characterize the relationships between groups of characteristics and to reduce the number of analyzed variables, a four-stages factor analysis was used:

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1) calculation of the correlation matrix for all variables participating in the analysis;

2) extraction of factors by the principal component method;

3) the rotation of factors to create a simplified structure using Varimax method;

4) analysis of factor loads matrix and the interpretation of factors.

## 4. Výsledky

### 4.1. Clinical evaluation of the BPD patients in manic or depressive episode

All the subjects were divided into 2 groups: experimental group (37 patients with BPD) and control group (21 healthy individuals). The experimental group, in turn, consisted of 24 patients in manic episode of the disease (subgroup A) and 13 patients in depressive episode of the disease (subgroup B). Clinical evaluation and biochemical measurement of BAD in-patients were done both at the beginning of treatment and when released from hospital treatment (in remission or partial remission). The average age within groups is shown in Table 1.

Tab. 1. Age structure in the experimental group (patients with bipolar disorder) and control group

Group	Subgroup	Age (years)		N
		min-max	M±SD	
Experimental	- All	21 – 65	42.2±12.2	37
	- Subgroup A	21 – 65	39.5±13.2	24
	- Subgroup B	30 – 59	46.9±8.7	13
Control		25 – 61	40.3±10.3	21

Subgroup A = manic episode; Subgroup B = depressive episode

A one-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) did not show a statistically significant difference in age between control

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group and experimental groups (all p=0.565, subgroup A p=0.156, and subgroup B p=0.147); it proves that groups are age-matched and no correction for age is necessary in data analysis.

First stage of the research included the assessment of the mental state of the patients with BPD. The following tests were used for patients in the manic episode: Brief Psychiatric Rating Scale (BPRS), Young Mania Rating Scale (YMRS), Mood Disorder Questionnaire (MDQ). Tests for patients in the depressive episode included: BPRS, Montgomery-Asberg Depression Rating Scale (MADRS), MDQ. For patients in remission we added Clinical Global Impression – Improvement scale (CGI-I) to measure the clinical improvement. (Tab. 2)

Tab. 2. Mental state assessment in the experimental group at the beginning of treatment and when released from treatment (measurements 1 and 2)

Test method	Episode	State of the patient		p
		Disease (acute state), measurement 1	Remission, measurement 2	
BPRS	Depressive	55 (44.5-68.5)	30 (27-33)	<0.001
	Manic	51.5 (41.5-66.5)	33 (29-41.5)	0.018
	p	0.952	0.177	-
MADRS	Depressive	26.5 (19-31)	4 (0-4)	<0.001
YMRS	Manic	20 (13.5-26)	1.5 (0-5)	<0.001
CGI-I		-	xx	

Mean (range); p – significance level

Data obtained from the Wilcoxon-Mann-Whitney test shows that the difference between the BPRS test scores in the acute state of the disease and in remission was significant within both A ( $p < 0.001$ ) and B ( $p = 0.018$ ) subgroups. In patients with mania the median BPRS score decreased from 51.5 to 33 and in patients with depression it decreased from 55 to 30. The decrease was comparable in both the subgroups. The difference in BPRS test scores between patients with mania and patients with depression were not significant in either the acute phase of the disease ( $p = 0.952$ ) or in remission ( $p = 0.177$ ) (Fig. 1).

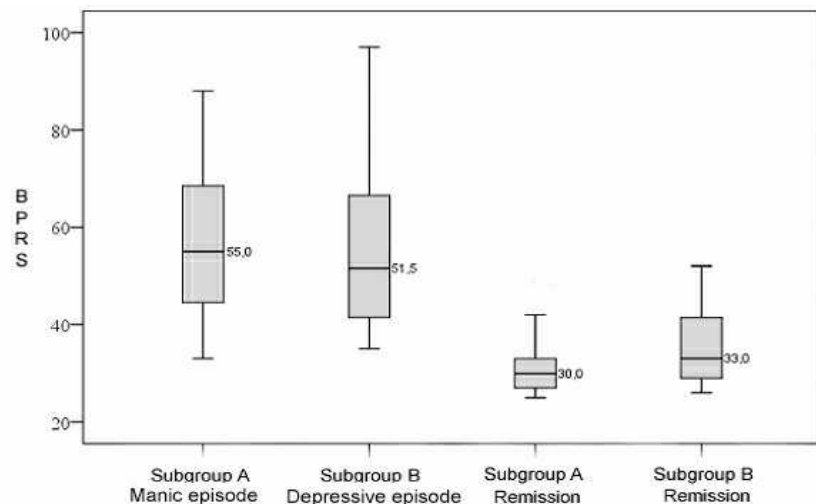


Fig. 1. BPRS test score in patients with mania and depression at the beginning and at the end of the study. Subgroup A = manic episode, Subgroup B = depressive episode. BPRS – Brief Psychiatric Rating Scale

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The Wilcoxon-Mann-Whitney test was also applied to establish the difference between the MADRS test score in the acute state of the disease and in remission. The decrease after treatment was significant ( $p < 0.001$ ). The median MADRS assessment decreased from 26.5 to 4 (Fig. 2).

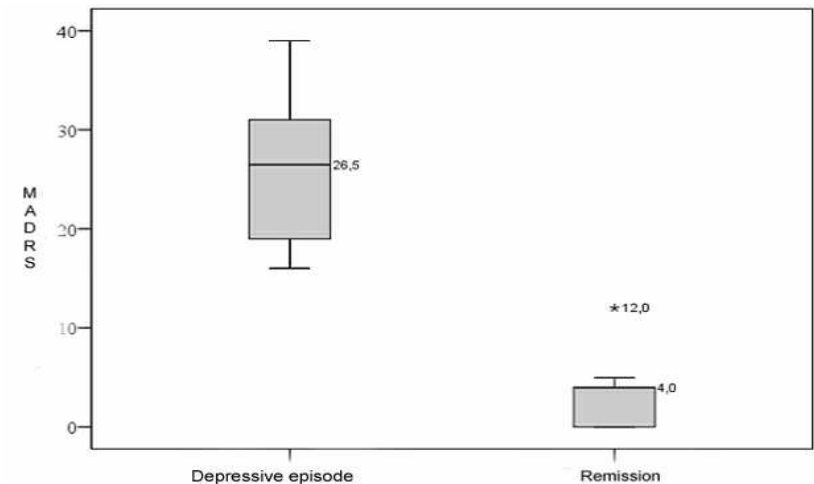


Fig. 2. MADRS test results in patients with depression at the beginning and at the end of the study

A significant decrease in the YMRS test score between patients in the manic episode and patients in remission was also established ( $p < 0.001$ ). The median in the acute phase was 20, in remission it decreased to 1.5. (Fig. 3)

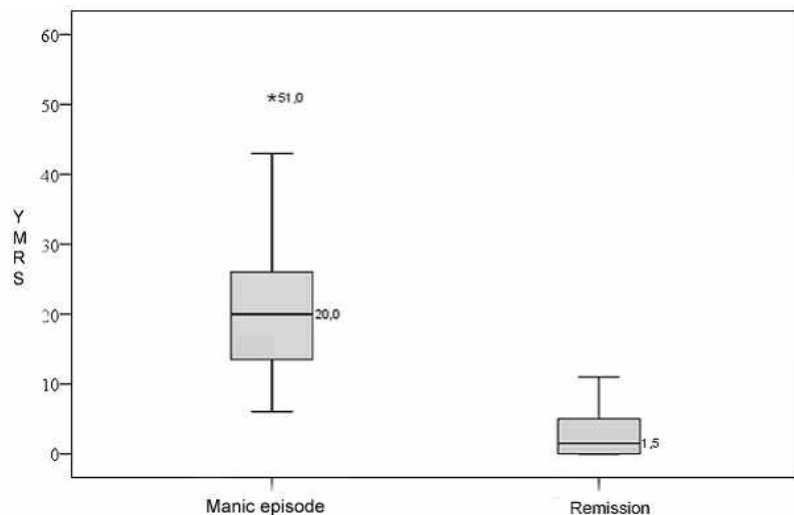


Fig. 3. YMRS test results in patients with mania and depression at the beginning and at the end of the study

The results of the CGI-I test were examined only at the end of the research as it is used to assess the quality of remission in mentally ill patients. (Tab. 3)

Tab. 3. CGI-I test results in patients with bipolar disorder in manic and depressive episode at the end of the study (remission)

CGI test	Subgroups				p
	A (mania)		B (depression)		
	Me	Q <sub>1</sub> -Q <sub>3</sub>	Me	Q <sub>1</sub> -Q <sub>3</sub>	
Scale I	2	1-2	2	1-3	0.694
Scale II	2	1-2	2	1-2	0.885
Scale III	41	41-42	41	31,5-41,5	0.462

p – significance level; Me = mean range; Q<sub>1</sub>- Quartile 1, Q<sub>3</sub> - Quartile 3.

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The Wilcoxon-Mann-Whitney test did not reveal a significant difference between the CGI-I test results in either A or B subgroups ( $p > 0.05$  for all CGI-I scales). Median assessments for the scales I, II, III were 2, 2, 41 respectively. We can summarize that there was no difference in the quality of clinical improvement between patients with bipolar disorder in a manic episode and patients with bipolar disorder in a depressive episode.

#### 4.2. Mitochondrial functions in BPD patients and healthy controls

The second stage of the research consisted of the comparison of the mitochondrial function in patients with BPD (in acute manic or depressive episodes) and healthy controls.

Activities of mitochondrial enzymes, citrate synthase (CS), complexes I (CI), II (CII) and IV (COX) in patients with BPD are graphically presented in Fig. 4 and 5.

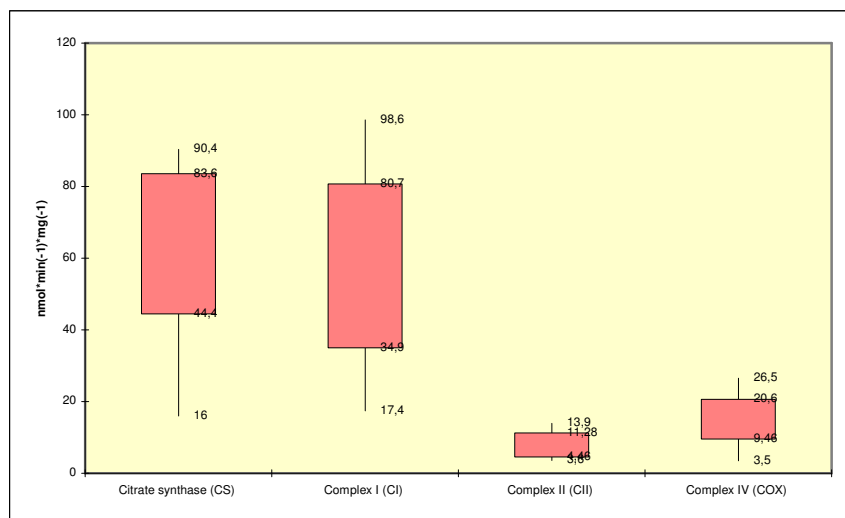


Fig. 4. Mitochondrial enzymes activity in the experimental group (patients with bipolar disorder in depressive episode, N=13). Min, Mean-SD, Mean+SD, Max, SD – standard deviation

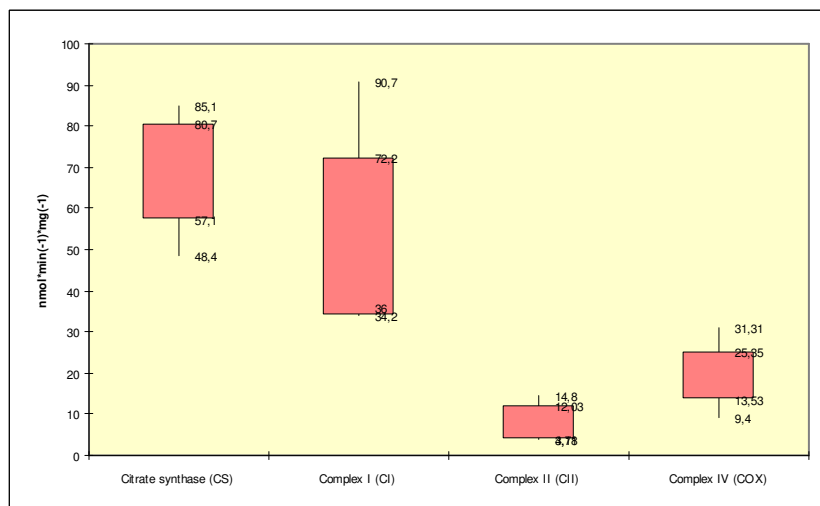


Fig. 5. Mitochondrial enzymes activity in the experimental group (patients with bipolar disorder in manic episode, N=24). Min, Mean-SD, Mean+SD, Max, SD – standard deviation

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After the post-hoc Scheffe test was performed, significant differences were not found between any of mitochondrial enzymes activity in patients with mania and depression (Tab. 4). The mitochondrial enzymes activity data from the group of healthy controls was not available; reference ranges of mitochondrial enzyme activities were obtained from mitochondrial laboratory of the Department of Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine, First Faculty of Medicine, Charles University and General University Hospital in Prague.

Tab. 4. Mitochondrial enzymes in patients with bipolar disorder in a manic or depressive episode

Mitochondrial enzyme	Group		p	Reference range
	Mania	Depression		
CS (nmol·min <sup>-1</sup> ·mg <sup>-1</sup> )	68.9±11.8	64.0±19.6	0.397	60-92
CI (nmol·min <sup>-1</sup> ·mg <sup>-1</sup> )	53.2±19.0	57.8±22.9	0.561	21-55
CII (nmol·min <sup>-1</sup> ·mg <sup>-1</sup> )	8.07±3.96	7.87±3.41	0.89	5-15
COX (nmol·min <sup>-1</sup> ·mg <sup>-1</sup> )	19.44±5.91	15.03±5.57	<b>0.054</b>	16-40

CS = citrate synthase; CI = Complex I; CII = Complex II; COX = Complex IV. Mean ± SD; p – significance level

Complex I (CI) activity in BPD patients with mania was lower than in patients with depression; Complex II (CII) activity in BPD patients with mania was higher than in patients

with depression; citrate synthase (CS) activity in BPD patients with mania was higher than in patients with depression, though none of the above had reached statistical significance. When comparing a decrease in Complex IV (COX) activity in BPD patients with depression with BPD patients with mania, the significance level was close to 0.05 (Fig. 6). Complex IV activity in BPD patients in depressive episode was slightly below reference range.

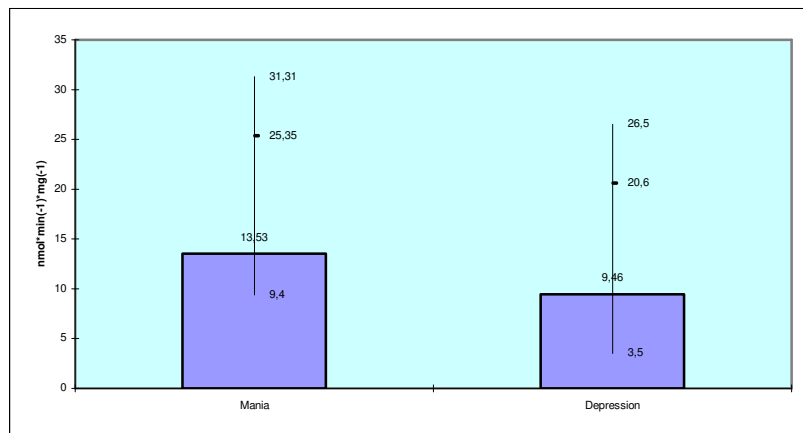


Fig. 6. Complex IV (COX) activity in patients with bipolar disorder in manic episode and depressive episode,  $p=0.054$ .

Min, Mean-SD, Mean+SD, Max, where SD – standard deviation

Changes in mitochondrial respiration in the blood platelets isolated from patients with BPD and healthy controls were examined through the general linear model, one-way analysis of variance and post-hoc Scheffé test. The results are summarized in Tab. 5.

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Tab 5. Mitochondrial respiration in the blood platelets from patients with bipolar disorder (measurement 1, manic or depressive episode) and healthy controls

Platelets	Respiratory state	Groups					
		Mania	P (Mania vs Controls)	Depression	P (Depression vs Controls)	Controls	P (Mania vs Depression)
Intact	PR	0.105±0.017	0.752	0.101±0.014	0.463	0.106±0.023	0.343
	LEAK	0.00656±0.00483	<b>0.005</b>	0.00534±0.00241	0.267	0.00169±0.00123	0.568
	ETSC	0.124±0.022	0.256	0.117±0.02	0.164	0.132±0.03	0.233
	Rotenone	0.00044±0.00036	0.148	-0.00151±0.00109	0.64	0.00164±0.00119	0.451
Permeabilized	IR (p)	0.087±0.021	0.32	0.082±0.026	0.24	0.094±0.021	0.678
	DMP (p)	0.046±0.028	0.188	0.034±0.014	0.564	0.038±0.014	0.355
	ADP (p)	0.108±0.031	0.418	0.097±0.032	0.873	0.112±0.03	0.823
	Glutamate (p)	0.115±0.036	0.817	0.107±0.044	0.114	0.115±0.03	0.913
	Succinate (p)	0.183±0.042	0.485	0.166±0.059	0.424	0.186±0.047	0.418
	LEAK (p)	0.03042±0.00825	<b>0.034</b>	0.02643±0.0104	0.093	0.02339±0.00745	0.6872
	ETSC (p)	0.177±0.054	0.453	0.162±0.056	0.111	0.188±0.06	0.462
	Rotenone (p)	0.073±0.026	0.941	0.075±0.025	0.723	0.076±0.031	0.338

Mean ± SD; p – significance level in reference to controls. PR – physiological respiration, LEAK – nonphosphorylating respiration measured after the addition of oligomycin, ETSC – electron transport system capacity measured after titration with uncoupler (carbonyl cyanide-p-trifluoromethoxyphenylhydrazone, FCCP), IR – initial respiration in washed

platelets before permeabilization with digitonin, DMP – respiration measured after the addition of digitonin+malate+pyruvate, ADP – stage 3 respiration supported through Complex I measured after the addition of ADP, Glutamate – stage 3 respiration measured after the addition of glutamate, Succinate – state 3 respiration supported through both Complex I and Complex II measured after the addition of the succinate, Rotenone – respiration after Complex I inhibition measured after the addition of rotenone. (p) indicate permeabilized platelets.

In intact platelets, the nonphosphorylating respiration measured after the addition of oligomycin (LEAK) was significantly higher in BPD patients with mania than in controls ( $p=0.005$ ). LEAK was also higher in patients with depression than in controls, and higher in patients with mania than in patients with depression, though the difference did not reach statistical validity. Other indexes such as electron transport system capacity (ETSC) and respiration after inhibiting complex I with rotenone (Rotenone) were lower in patients in both phases of BPD than in healthy controls, and lower in depression than in mania, though these differences were not significant. Physiological respiration (PR) appeared to be similar in all the subgroups (Fig 7, 8, 9).

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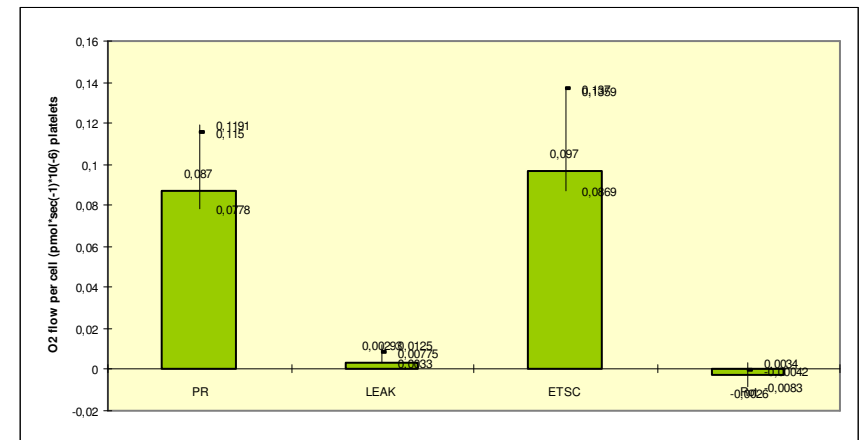


Fig. 7. Mitochondrial respiration normalized for platelet concentration in intact platelets of patients with BPD in depressive episode. PR - physiological respiration, LEAK – nonphosphorylating respiration measured after the addition of oligomycin, ETSC – electron transport system capacity, Rot – respiration after complex I inhibition, measured after the addition of rotenone.

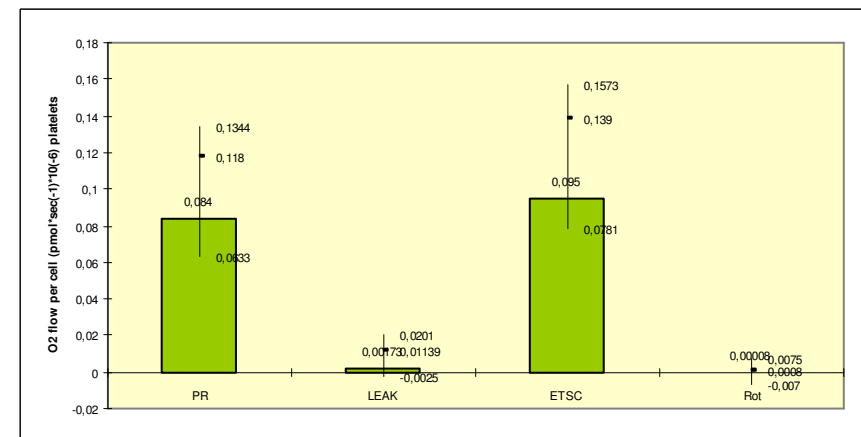


Fig. 8. Mitochondrial respiration normalized for platelet concentration in intact platelets of patients with BPD in manic episode. PR - physiological respiration, LEAK – nonphosphorylating respiration measured after the addition of

oligomycin, ETSC – electron transport system capacity, Rot – respiration after complex I inhibition, measured after the addition of rotenone.

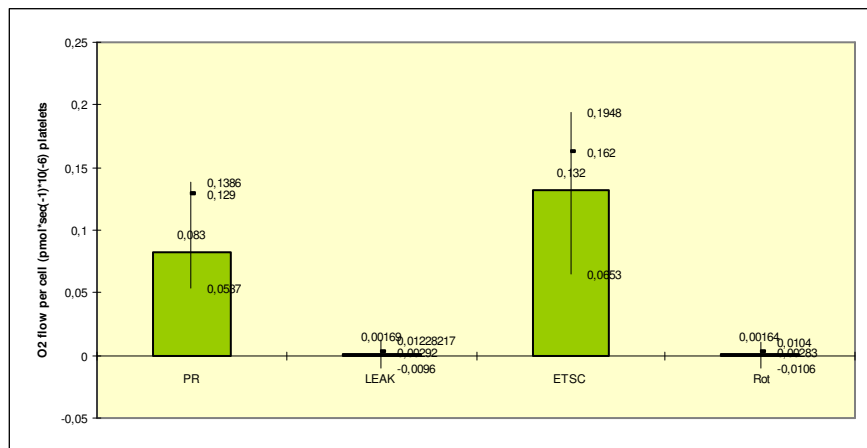


Fig. 9. Mitochondrial respiration normalized for platelet concentration in intact platelets of healthy controls. PR - physiological respiration, LEAK – nonphosphorylating respiration measured after the addition of oligomycin, ETSC – electron transport system capacity, Rot – respiration after complex I inhibition, measured after the addition of rotenone.

After the normalization for CS activity, mitochondrial respiratory rate did not show any significant difference between the group of patients with BPD in a manic episode and control group or between the group of patients with BPD in a manic or depressive episode.

We also measured a flux control ratio (the ratio of a respiratory rate at a specific respiratory state divided by ETSC); e.g. LEAK/ETSC ratio was significantly higher in patients with

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BPD in a manic episode than in healthy controls ( $p=0.03$ ) and in patients with BPD in a depressive episode than in healthy controls ( $p=0.042$ ) (Fig. 10, 11)

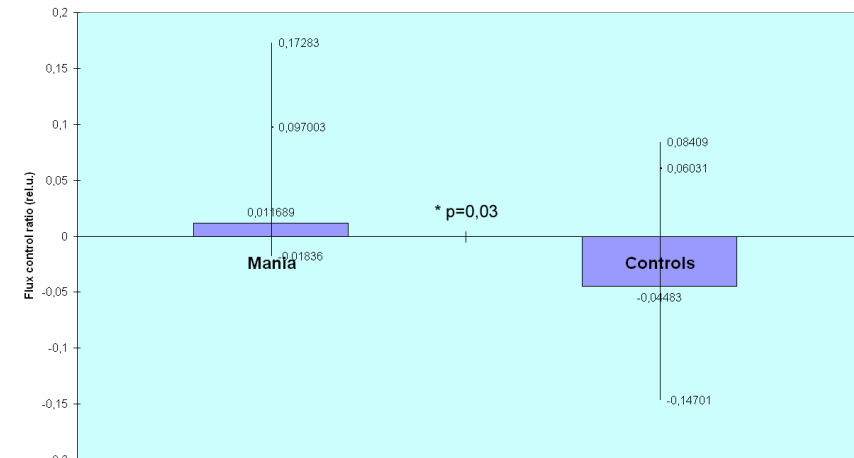


Fig. 10. The LEAK/ETSC index (flux control ratio) in intact platelets of patients with mania and healthy controls,  $p=0.03$

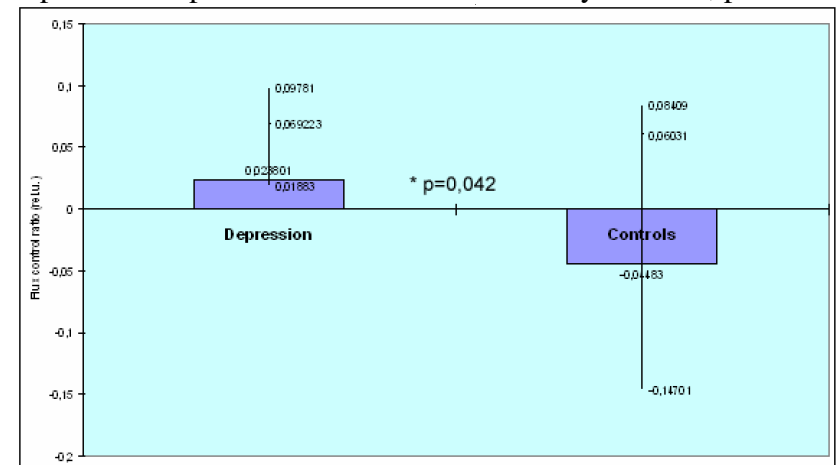


Fig. 11. The LEAK/ETSC index (flux control ratio) in intact platelets of patients with depression and healthy controls,  $p=0.042$

The mean LEAK/ETSC in intact platelets of patients with BPD episode was slightly higher in BPD patients in both manic and depressive episodes compared to controls, which may indicate a disturbance in the mitochondria coupling process and/or functional integrity in the inner mitochondrial membrane in BPD.

In permeabilized platelets LEAK index (nonphosphorylating respiration after the addition of oligomycin) was also significantly higher in BPD patients with mania ( $p=0.034$ ) than in healthy controls. LEAK was also lower in patients with depression than in patients with mania, though these changes did not reach statistical validity ( $p=0.058$ ). Other respiratory rates such as ADP, Succinate did not reveal a significant difference between the groups.

The results are summarized in Table 5 and Fig. 12.

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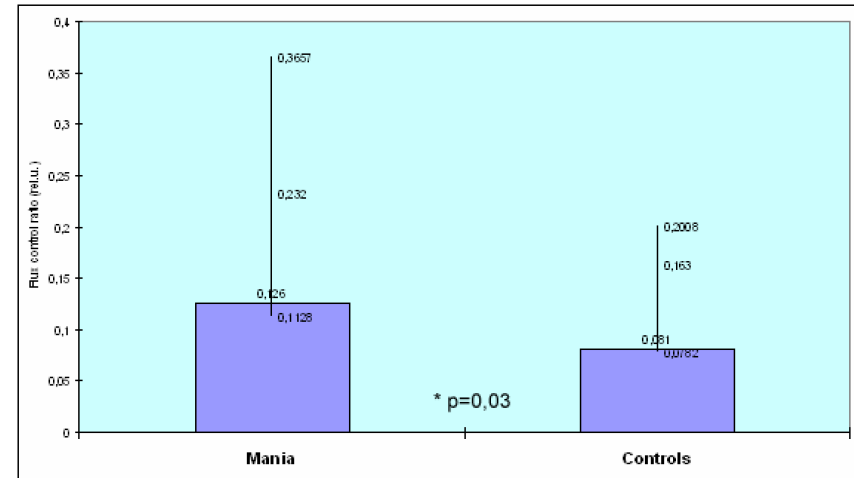


Fig. 12. The LEAK/ETSC index (a part of the flux control ratio) in permeabilized platelets of patients with BPD with mania and healthy controls,  $p=0.042$

A comparable analysis for the mitochondrial enzymes activity and mitochondrial respiration in the group of BPD patients in remission and healthy controls was also performed. The comparability of the indexes in subgroups A and B was estimated through Student t-test. The results are summarized in Tab. 6.

Tab. 6. Mitochondrial respiration in the blood platelets from patients with bipolar disorder (measurement 2, remission) and healthy controls

	Mitochondrial function	Groups					
		Mania	P (Mania vs Controls)	Depression	P (Depression vs Controls)	Controls	P (Mania vs Depression)
Intact platelets	PR	0.106±0.029	0.982	0.106±0.024	0.362	0.106±0.023	0.533
	LEAK	0.00466±0.00088	<b>0.049</b>	0.00356±0.00101	0.573	0.00169±0.00123	0.174
	ETSC	0.127±0.039	0.64	0.129±0.031	0.677	0.132±0.03	0.462
	Rotenone	-0.0007±0.00045	0.079	0.00075±0.0006	0.185	0.00164±0.00119	0.788
Permeabilized platelets	IR (p)	0.084±0.028	0.158	0.089±0.025	0.663	0.094±0.021	0.211
	DMP (p)	0.037±0.013	0.856	0.037±0.013	0.56	0.038±0.014	0.33
	ADP (p)	0.107±0.042	0.649	0.0109±0.035	0.267	0.112±0.03	0.583
	Glutamate (p)	0.118±0.049	0.788	0.116±0.041	0.145	0.115±0.03	0.672
	Succinate (p)	0.188±0.065	0.913	0.187±0.053	0.989	0.186±0.047	0.699
	LEAK (p)	0.0283±0.01152	0.068	0.0256±0.00984	0.164	0.02339±0.00745	0.13
	ETSC (p)	0.185±0.071	0.892	0.186±0.065	0.463	0.188±0.06	0.462
	Rotenone (p)	0.081±0.033	0.601	0.079±0.032	0.555	0.076±0.031	0.54

Mean ± SD; p – significance level in reference to controls . PR – physiological respiration, LEAK – nonphosphorylating respiration measured after the addition of oligomycin, ETSC – electron transport system capacity measured after titration with uncoupler (carbonyl cyanide-p-trifluoromethoxyphenylhydrazone, FCCP), IR – initial respiration in washed platelets before permeabilization with digitonin, DMP –respiration measured after the addition of digitonin+malate+pyruvate, ADP – stage 3

the LEAK index was significantly higher in BPD patients with remission than in healthy controls.

Additional results of the study include the exploration of the duration period between the acute state and remission and its dependence on the mitochondrial pathology indicators in patients with different phases of BPD. Indicators sensitive for the period length turned out to be: CS (positive values), COX (negative values), PR (positive values), ETS capacity (negative values), and respiration after the addition of glutamate (positive values).

Taken together, the obtained data provide evidence for the connection between psychopathological symptoms and mitochondrial function in mental disorders through cellular mechanisms involved in the pathology of BPD explored in the current study.

Results from this study provide information for clinicians and other researchers. This study also portrays mitochondria as a promising targets for the therapeutic modulation of cellular resilience and synapses in neuronal pathways involved in high-order functions of the brain in different mental disorders, including BPD.

Further research focused on treatment of this disorder, therapeutic strategies and diagnostic tools is needed to acquire a better understanding of BPD pathophysiology.

Healthy controls do not show this type of mitochondrial alteration. Obtaining peripheral blood platelets from patients with mental disorders is an easy and quick procedure which may be useful for *in vivo* studies of mitochondrial respiration in psychiatric diseases;

- support Hypothesis 2 that the severity of the symptoms of BPD is associated with the severity of the alteration of the mitochondrial function. A significant correlation was observed between Complex I and BPRS score in patients with manic symptoms;

- do not support Hypothesis 3 that there is a difference in the levels of mitochondrial respiration and enzyme activity in manic state and depressive state. There was no significant difference in mitochondrial respiration and enzymes activity between subgroups of BPD patients in mania and depression.

- support Hypothesis 4 that there is a difference in the levels of mitochondrial respiration and enzyme activity in patients with BPD and healthy controls both in acute state and remission. LEAK index both in intact and permeabilized platelets was significantly higher in BPD patients with mania than in controls; flux control ratio (the ratio of a respiratory rate at a specific respiratory state divided to ETSC) was significantly higher in patients with mania than in controls and in patients with depression than in controls; in intact platelets,

respiration supported through Complex I measured after the addition of ADP, Glutamate – stage 3 respiration measured after the addition of glutamate, Succinate – state 3 respiration supported through both Complex I and Complex II measured after the addition of the succinate, , Rotenone – respiration after Complex I inhibition measured after the addition of rotenone. (p) indicate permeabilized platelets.

In intact platelets, the LEAK was significantly higher in patients with bipolar disorder in remission after a manic episode ( $0.00466 \text{ pmol}\cdot\text{sec}^{-1}\cdot 10^{-6}$  platelets) than in controls ( $0.00169 \text{ pmol}\cdot\text{sec}^{-1}\cdot 10^{-6}$  platelets,  $p < 0.05$ ) (Fig. 13). Other indexes such as ETSC and respiration after inhibiting complex I with rotenone (Rotenone) were lower in patients with patients with bipolar disorder in remission after a manic episode than in healthy controls, however these differences were not significant. PR index was similar in both groups. After the normalization for CS activity, the mitochondrial respiratory rate had shown no significant difference between the group of patients with bipolar disorder in remission after a manic episode or a depressive episode and control group.

In permeabilized platelets there was no significant difference in the mitochondrial respiration for all the respiratory states.

## 6. Závěry

BPD is a complex disease that involves several biological pathways. Mitochondrial dysfunction was included when the mitochondrial hypothesis of BPD was firstly proposed by Kato in 2000. Since then it was supported by various data including decreased ATP production, upregulation of genes involved in apoptosis, downregulation of mitochondrial genes regulating OXPHOS, decreased antioxidant defences, abnormalities in the structure, and distribution of mitochondria and others. Some of the pathophysiological processes in BPD were discovered to be associated with certain clinical symptoms of the disease such as cognitive impairment, hyperactivity and others.

The main research question in the conducted study was whether energy metabolism in mitochondria corresponds to clinical evaluation of the psychopathological symptoms in patients with bipolar disorder.

The results obtained by the current study:

- support Hypothesis 1 that there is a set of mitochondrial functional impairment indexes specific for the current phase of the disorder. For patients with BPD we can expect a decrease in ETSC and physiological respiration in intact platelets, and an increase in DMP, nonphosphorylation respiration and initial respiration in permeabilized platelets.

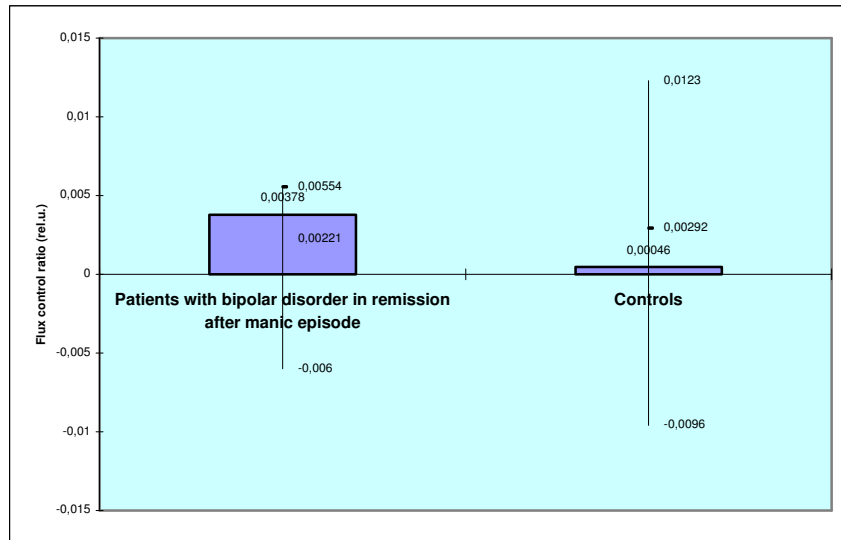


Fig. 13. The LEAK index in intact platelets of patients with bipolar disorder in remission after manic episode and healthy controls,  $p=0,042$

### 4.3. Changes in mitochondrial function of BPD patients during the research period

An assessment of the changes in mitochondrial enzymes activity and mitochondrial respiration of BPD patients during the research period was also performed, i.e. values in the acute phase before treatment (manic or depressive episode) and after treatment (in remission) were compared (Tab. 7).

respiration rates easily obtained from peripheral blood platelets might become a useful clinical tool in the diagnostic process.

A unique combination of the factors above in further studies may help to understand the effect of the certain mitochondrial function alteration on specific behaviors and psychopathological symptoms. Regardless of the rank of the certain index in the sequence of disease-causing events, an overall mitochondrial pathology is an important factor in the manifestation of clinical symptoms of BPD.

Tab. 7. Activities of mitochondrial enzymes in platelets of BPD patients in acute phase of the disease compared with remission

Mitochondrial enzymes	Phase of the disease	Disease state		p
		Acute	Remission	
CS, nmol·min <sup>-1</sup> ·mg <sup>-1</sup>	Mania	68.9±11.8	63.9±9.7	0.063
	Depression	64.0±19.6	65.3±19.3	0.687
CI, nmol·min <sup>-1</sup> ·mg <sup>-1</sup>	Mania	53.2±19.0	59.3±27.8	0.526
	Depression	57.8±22.9	80.2±19.3	0.352
CII, nmol·min <sup>-1</sup> ·mg <sup>-1</sup>	Mania	8.07±3.96	7.62±3.33	0.467
	Depression	7.87±3.41	8.09±3.41	0.799
COX, nmol·min <sup>-1</sup> ·mg <sup>-1</sup>	Mania	19.44±5.91	19.39±4.29	0.985
	Depression	15.03±5.57	15.57±5.43	0.72

Mean ± SD; p – significance level. CS – citrate synthase, CI – Complex I, CII – Complex II, COX – Complex IV.

The CS activity in BPD patients with mania was higher than in healthy controls though the difference did not reach statistical validity (p=0,063). The difference between other enzymes activity such as CI, CII and COX for the groups of BPD patients and healthy controls also did not reach statistical validity. The results are summarized in Fig. 14.

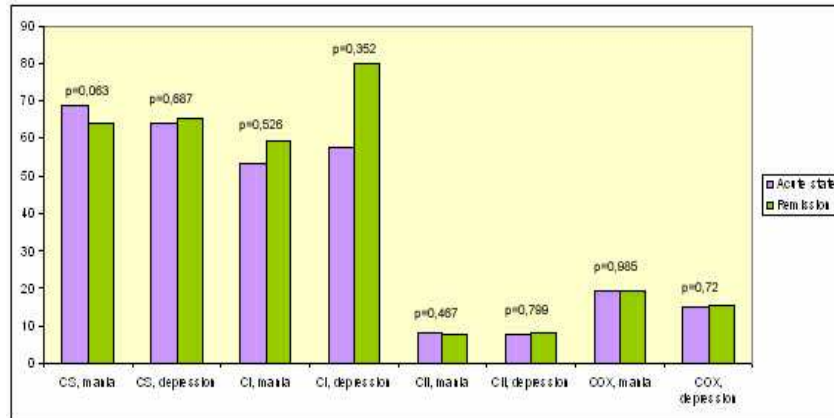


Fig. 14. Activities of mitochondrial enzymes in patients with BPD in an acute phase of the disease (manic or depressive episode) compared with remission

We have also compared the mitochondrial enzymes activity and respiration rates in the subgroups A and B: patients with mania vs patients with depression. The results obtained through paired test calculation are summarized in Tab. 9.

Tab. 9. Mitochondrial respiration in blood platelets from patients with bipolar disorder in manic or depressive episodes before and after treatment

	Respiratory state	Episode of the disease	Disease state		P
			Acute	Remission	
Intact platelets	PR	Mania	0.105±0.017	0.106±0.033	0.885
		Depression	0.101±0.014	0.106±0.022	0.538
	LEAK	Mania	0.00656±0.0048 3	0.00548±0.0012 1	0.431
		Depression	0.00534±0.0024 1	0.00301±0.0009 5	0.079
	ETSC	Mania	0.124±0.022	0.129±0.044	0.604
		Depression	0.117±0.02	0.123±0.025	0.559

needs to be present in certain brain areas involved in certain clinical symptoms of the disease. Bioenergetic demand of the brain cells may vary in different brain areas and this demand is sensitive to different factors, which means that there is a certain threshold value of damaged mitochondria causing a symptom available for clinical measurement, and this value may be different for different neurons. These differences might enable some psychopathological symptoms to manifest while other symptoms remain hidden.

Explored abnormalities in mitochondrial function may reduce the cell ability for the appropriate stress response to such stimuli as emotional outbursts (an increased glutamate release), starvation (decreased glucose levels) and other risk factors known for psychotic episodes in affective disorders such as in-utero and infant malnutrition, substance abuse, and traumatic experiences (Kroll JL, 2007).

If we suggest that the obtained abnormalities in platelet mitochondrial respiration are similar to the abnormalities in brain mitochondrial respiration, it may further confirm the contribution of energy metabolism impairment to the pathophysiology of BPD. Given the lack of a reliable and clinically relevant biological markers for BPD and other mood disorders, a set of mitochondrial enzymes activity and



NAA/Creatine + Phosphocreatine or NAA levels and illness duration. However, later studies found that decreased NAA levels was restricted to the basal ganglia of the brain (Chang K et al, 2003). Berk proposed a general role of mitochondrial dysfunction in the disease progression (Berk M et al, 2011). Disceimably there is no suggested clinical test for a combination of the mitochondrial impairment indicators for the BPD, and therefore the data obtained from the current research may serve as an easily-accessible set of predictors for the episode duration in clinical practice.

There are few research findings confirming the role of mitochondrial respiration in the severity of the clinical symptoms of BPD (Scaini G et al, 2016). A body of evidence for the increased mitochondrial respiration and ATP production in a manic phase and decreased mitochondrial function in patients in the euthymic or depressive phase of the BPD was found, though the research data are partially controversial (Hroudova J, Fisar Z, 2011). It has yet to be discovered whether the impairment in mitochondrial function contributes to the disease process or is an independent process.

Various mitochondrial function alterations in patients with BPD do not indicate the same behavioral changes or psychopathological symptoms regardless of the tissue type or brain area. We suggest that the same mitochondrial impairment

Rotenone	Mania	0.00044± 0.00036	-0.00044± 0.00026	0.207
	Depression	-0.00151± 0.00109	-0.00121± 0.00074	0.989
IR (p)	Mania	0.087±0.021	0.083±0.028	0.349
	Depression	0.082±0.026	0.088±0.029	0.629
DMP (p)	Mania	0.046±0.028	0.038±0.014	0.215
	Depression	0.034±0.014	0.036±0.012	0.555
ADP (p)	Mania	0.108±0.031	0.107±0.049	0.964
	Depression	0.097±0.032	0.108±0.029	0.547
Glutamate (p)	Mania	0.115±0.036	0.114±0.055	0.925
	Depression	0.107±0.044	0.125±0.039	0.478
Succinate (p)	Mania	0.183±0.042	0.186±0.072	0.945
	Depression	0.166±0.059	0.192±0.055	0.429
LEAK (p)	Mania	0.03042± 0.00825	0.02939± 0.01298	0.552
	Depression	0.02643±0.0104	0.02647± 0.00858	0.66
ETSC (p)	Mania	0.177±0.054	0.183±0.082	0.775
	Depression	0.162±0.056	0.186±0.049	0.49
Rotenone (p)	Mania	0.073±0.026	0.077±0.031	0.799
	Depression	0.075±0.025	0.089±0.039	0.448

Mean ± SD; significance level. PR – physiological respiration, LEAK – nonphosphorylating respiration measured after the addition of oligomycin, ETSC – electron transport system capacity measured after titration with uncoupler (carbonyl cyanide-p-trifluoromethoxyphenylhydrazone, FCCP), IR – initial respiration in washed platelets before permeabilization with digitonin, DMP –respiration measured after the addition of digitonin+malate+pyruvate, ADP – stage 3 respiration supported through Complex I measured after the addition of ADP, Glutamate – stage 3 respiration measured after the addition of glutamate, Succinate – state 3 respiration supported through both Complex I and Complex II measured after the addition of the succinate, Rotenone – respiration after Complex I inhibition measured after the addition of rotenone. (p) indicate permeabilized platelets.

There were no significant differences between an acute stage of illness and remission in BPD patients ( $p>0.05$  for all the measurements).

#### 4.4. Connections between mitochondrial function and psychopathological symptoms in BPD patients

We also calculated correlation coefficients between the BPRS, YMRS, MADRS, MDQ and CGI-I tests and mitochondrial complexes activity to establish the association between the state of the disease, psychopathological symptoms, clinical improvement and mitochondrial pathology. A significant correlation was observed between Complex I and the BPRS score in the subgroup A (patients with mania, acute state – measurement 1) ( $p=0.001$ ). The Pearson coefficient showed a high closeness of relationships according to Chaddock scale ( $r_{xy} = 0.747$ ), which is the evidence of the correlation validity. The paired linear regression equation shows the Complex I value dependence of BPRS score (1):

$$\text{BPRS} = 18.66 + 0.7 \cdot \text{CI} \quad (1)$$

where BPRS – Brief Psychiatric Rating Scale, mental state assessment scale in patients with BPD, manic episode, acute state (points), CI – Complex I activity ( $\text{nmol} \cdot \text{min}^{-1} \cdot \text{mg}^{-1}$ ).

Based on the regression coefficient value, with the CI increase of  $1 \text{ nmol} \cdot \text{min}^{-1} \cdot \text{mg}^{-1}$  we expect a BPRS score increase of 0.7 points. The coefficient of determination  $R^2$  was 0.558 which indicates that 55.8% factors are taken into account in the regression model (1).

control ratio increase in patients with BPD seems to be mania-specific, though we did not obtain any data confirming a decrease of the same indexes during the depressive phase.

Factor analysis in our study showed that patients with BPD had significantly lower Factor 2 values than healthy controls (ETS capacity and physiological respiration in intact platelets) and significantly higher Factor 3 values than healthy controls (stage 3 respiration, nonphosphorylation respiration and initial respiration in permeabilized platelets).

We speculate that a combination of those indexes with LEAK index and flux control ratio may serve as a clinical set of biological markers specific for the diagnosis of the bipolar disorder regardless of the phase of the disease.

The current study also explores the duration period between the acute state and remission and its dependence on the mitochondrial pathology indicators in blood platelets of the patients with different phases of BPD. Indicators sensitive for the period length turned out to be: CS (positive values), COX (negative values), PR (positive values), ETS capacity (negative values), and respiration after the addition of glutamate (positive values).

A possible connection between the illness duration and mitochondrial dysfunction in patients with BPD was also studied by Chang, who found a negative correlation between

to controls, though normalization for CS activity eliminated the difference. The LEAK respirations, as well as the flux control ratio LEAK/ETSC, are parameters characterizing mitochondrial damage. The flux control ratio LEAK/ETSC (i.e., oligomycin-inhibited respiration divided by uncoupled respiration at optimum FCCP concentration) in intact platelets remained very low, which indicated well-coupled mitochondria and the functional integrity of the inner mitochondrial membrane.

Flux control ratio for the intact platelets (the ratio of a respiratory rate at a specific respiratory state divided to ETS capacity) was also significantly higher both in patients with BPD in a manic state and in a depressive state than in healthy controls. This may indicate an increased intrinsic uncoupling in the platelets of BPD patients and the availability of these parameters as indicators of the platelet respiration.

Morris et al. (2017) postulates that symptomatically BPD is a biphasic disorder of energy ability; increased in mania and decreased in depression; and mitochondrial dysfunction may serve as a state dependent marker of the disorder with an increased mitochondrial function during mania and a decreased mitochondrial function during depression. The author offers a model explaining the biphasic nature of the disorder (Morris G et al, 2017). Our data partially corresponds with this postulate as the obtained data for the LEAK index increase and flux

The regression function diagram (1) is shown on the Fig. 15.

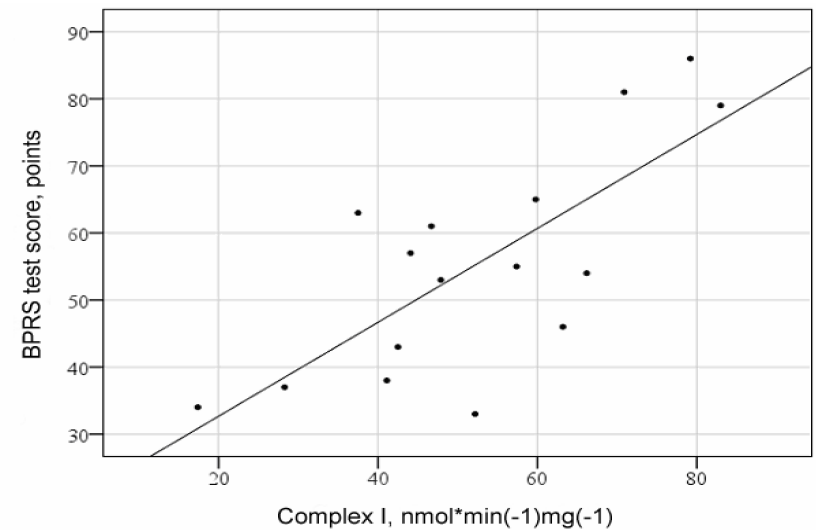


Fig. 15. Linear dependence diagram for the mental state of BPD patients with mania and Complex I activity

There were no significant correlation coefficients between other mental state assessment tests and mitochondrial pathology indicators in the other subgroups of the patients and in healthy controls.

In order to identify relationships between a large numbers of mitochondrial pathology indicators in the research, a factor analysis was performed. We could distinguish four factors through principal component analysis with a Varimax rotation method. The characteristics of these factors are summarized in Tab. 9.

Tab. 9. The characteristics of the mitochondrial pathology assessment factors in patients with bipolar disorder

Factor No.	Meaning	Total variance explained, %	Cumulative % of the explained variance
1	3.62	30.17	30.17
2	2.66	22.19	52.36
3	2.27	18.87	71.23
4	1.28	10.67	81.9

The eigenvalues of all the factors were >1. The factor load for each of the mitochondrial pathology indicators allowing the evaluation of the correlation between picked factors and other indicators is shown as a factor loadings matrix where the highest values are shown in bold (Tab. 10).

Tab. 10. Factor loadings matrix

Mitochondrial function	Factor 1	Factor 2	Factor 3	Factor 4
Rotenone (p)	<b>.876</b>	.015	-.063	.299
Succinate (p)	<b>.860</b>	.352	.288	.039
ETSC (p)	<b>.821</b>	.400	.237	.091
ADP (p)	<b>.647</b>	.507	.473	-.108
Glutamate (p)	<b>.635</b>	.380	.509	-.110
ETSC	.165	<b>.938</b>	.090	.068
PR	.228	<b>.866</b>	.175	.190
DMP (p)	.085	.175	<b>.863</b>	.141
LEAK (p)	.568	-.054	<b>.602</b>	.207
IR (p)	.389	.485	<b>.586</b>	.042
Rotenone	.238	.277	-.104	<b>.730</b>
LEAK	-.011	-.043	.373	<b>.721</b>

mitochondrial respiration in both diseases. Those alterations in energy metabolism may partially define or underlay psychopathology in a manic state or during the psychotic episode of the disease. Alterations may also vary according to the state of the disease, with the positive peak in manic states, which can be measured and proved statistically and negative peak in depressive states which is downplayed. Further studies are needed to verify this suggestion.

Since Complexes I-IV play a key role in mitochondrial OXPHOS, their altered activity may reflect a mitochondrial dysfunction which, in turn, can result in impaired neuronal metabolism and neuronal plasticity expressed in certain psychopathological symptoms. Still there is not enough evidence whether this alteration is a causal or consequential effect of the disease.

We found that there was no statistical difference in physiological respiration in all the subgroups (BPD patients with mania, BPD patients with depression, BPD patients in remission, healthy controls). Therefore PR index cannot be used as biological marker sensitive to BPD.

In the respiration rates there was a significant increase of LEAK index (nonphosphorylating respiration measured after the addition of oligomycin) both in intact and permeabilized platelets in the subgroup of BPD patients with mania compared

participants and further research in this area will provide us with the necessary data.

Research covering the association of mitochondrial enzymes activity and psychopathological symptoms of the BPD are limited while research exploring those connections in patients with other psychiatric diseases are widely present. Ben-Shakhar repeatedly obtained results indicating the connection between the severity of the SZ symptoms and mitochondrial impairment (Ben-Shachar D et al, 1999, Ben-Shachar D et al, 2008) though there were no significant changes in the activity of complexes I and IV in mitochondria isolated from blood platelets of BPD patients in the same study. Dror et al. (2002) also performed a study exploring Complex I activity in schizophrenic and BPD patients and found that a degree of increase in complex I activity correlated directly with the severity of positive symptoms in patients with SZ (a tendency towards a negative correlation between complex I activity and negative symptoms did not reach statistical significance) (Dror N et al, 2002).

As many psychopathological symptoms and mitochondrial pathology found in patients with SZ and BPD overlap (Clay H et al, 2011), those findings may highlight a connection between the severity of psychopathological symptoms and a specific and selective alteration in

PR – physiological respiration, LEAK – nonphosphorylating respiration measured after the addition of oligomycin, ETSC – electron transport system capacity measured after titration with uncoupler (carbonyl cyanide-p-trifluoromethoxyphenylhydrazone, FCCP), IR – initial respiration in washed platelets before permeabilization with digitonin, DMP –respiration measured after the addition of digitonin+malate+pyruvate, ADP – stage 3 respiration supported through Complex I measured after the addition of ADP, Glutamate – stage 3 respiration measured after the addition of glutamate, Succinate – state 3 respiration supported through both Complex I and Complex II measured after the addition of the succinate, Rotenone – respiration after Complex I inhibition measured after the addition of rotenone. (p) indicate permeabilized platelets.

According to the components distribution, Factor 1 is characterized by high values of: respiration after Complex I inhibition, stage 3 respiration supported through both Complex I and II, electron transport system capacity and stage 3 respiration supported through Complex I, all in permeabilized platelets. Factor 2 is characterized by high values of: electron transport system capacity and physiological respiration in intact platelets. Factor 3 is characterized by high values of: initial respiration, respiration after addition of malate and pyruvate, and nonphosphorylating respiration, all in permeabilized platelets. Factor 4 is characterized by high values of: respiration after Complex I inhibition and nonphosphorylating respiration in intact platelets.

We made the assessment of the differences between the experimental and control group based on the calculated values for each of the identified factors. The values of the four

combined factors in the BPD patients and control groups were compared for that purpose (Tab. 11).

Tab. 11. The comparison of combined factors in patients with bipolar disorders and control group

Combined factors	Groups				p
	Bipolar disorder		Controls		
	Me	Q <sub>1</sub> ; Q <sub>3</sub>	Me	Q <sub>1</sub> ; Q <sub>3</sub>	
Factor 1 (Rotenone (p), Succinate (p), ETSC (p), ADP (p), Glutamate (p))	-0.2	-0.95; 0.81	0.19	-0.56; 0.52	0.543
Factor 2 (ETSC, PR)	-0.13	-0.89; 0.28	0.34	-0.34; 1.19	<b>0.024</b>
Factor 3 (DMP (p), Oligomycin (p), IR (p))	0.16	-0.59; 0.63	-0.32	-0.83; -0.06	<b>0.023</b>
Factor 4 (Rotenone, LEAK)	0.15	-0.6; 1.05	-0.15	-0.7; 0.64	0.325

Me – Mean; SD – Standard deviation; ; Q<sub>1</sub> – Quartile 1; Q<sub>3</sub> – Quartile 3; p – significance level. PR – physiological respiration, LEAK – nonphosphorylating respiration measured after the addition of oligomycin, ETSC – electron transport system capacity measured after titration with uncoupler (carbonyl cyanide-p-trifluoromethoxyphenylhydrazone, FCCP), IR – initial respiration in washed platelets before permeabilization with digitonin, DMP – respiration measured after the addition of digitonin+malate+pyruvate, ADP – stage 3 respiration supported through Complex I measured after the addition of ADP, Glutamate – stage 3 respiration measured after the addition of glutamate, Succinate – state 3 respiration supported through both Complex I and Complex II measured after the addition of the succinate, Rotenone – respiration after Complex I inhibition measured after the addition of rotenone. (p) indicate permeabilized platelets

with BPD (Aydemir O et al, 2014) and they are often present in the very first episode (Bora E, Pantelis C, 2015).

Continuing the discussion of the changes in mitochondrial respiration in depressive phase of the disease we need to mention Gardner, who performed a research on mitochondrial enzymes activity and ATP production rate in patients with MDD and found an overall decrease in Complex I-IV in comparison with controls which correlated with the vulnerability to psychopathology in the following scales: ‘Somatic Anxiety’. ‘Psychasthenia’ and ‘Suspition’ (Gardner A et al, 2003).

Correa found a decreased level of ETS complexes in an animal model of mania associated with manic symptoms (Correa et al, 2007). Freitas discovered an association between manic-like hyperactivity in a rat brain and a decrease in the activity of CS (Freitas TP et al, 2010).

As seen from the results of the conducted analyses, in our research we didn’t find any significant correlation between certain psychometric scales and mitochondrial respiration indexes except for the correlation between Complex I and BPRS score in patients with mania. Based on the regression coefficient value, with the CI increase of 1 nmol\*min<sup>-1</sup>mg<sup>-1</sup> we expect a BPRS score increase of 0,7 points. A low quantity of obtained correlations may be the result of the small amount of

complexes of mononuclear blood cells were examined in BPD patients in euthymic mood (Gubert C et al, 2013). No significant changes were found in complex I, complex II and complex II + III activities. The obtained results are also consistent with the data received by deSouza in 2014 which stated that mitochondrial complexes I-IV activity was not changed during the depressive episodes of BPD (deSouza RT et al, 2015).

A decrease in COX activity was observed in BPD patients with depression and when compared with BPD patients with mania, the significance level was close to critical (Fig. 6). This data partially corresponds with the previous research made by Valla (Valla J et al, 2006) on the groups of patients with mild cognitive deficits (Alzheimer disease and other diseases), and data discovered by Fisar (Fisar Z et al, 2016) for the group of patients with Alzheimer's disease, where COX activity was decreased and negatively correlated with the Mini Mental State Examination (MMSE) score. This may lead to a suggestion that a decreased complex IV activity indicates cognitive impairment which is more evident during a depressive phase of the disease. Prince found a decrease in COX activity in the frontal cortex and caudate nucleus and linked it to an increased emotional and cognitive impairment in patients with SZ. In general (Prince JA et al, 2000), neurocognitive deficits are commonly associated

The Mann-Whitney test shows that patients with bipolar disorder had significantly lower Factor 2 values than healthy controls ( $p=0.024$ ) and significantly higher Factor 3 values than healthy controls ( $p=0.023$ ). For patients with bipolar disorder we can expect a decrease in ETSC and physiological respiration in intact platelets, and a decrease in DMP, nonphosphorylation respiration and initial respiration in permeabilized platelets.

We also explored the duration period between the acute state and remission and its dependence on the mitochondrial pathology indicators in patients within different phases of bipolar disorder.

We calculated multiple linear regression equation for the patients in manic state (2):

$$T_{\text{rem}} = -56,3 + 2,1 \cdot X_{\text{CS}} - 4,8 \cdot X_{\text{CIV}} + 1745,1 \cdot X_{\text{PR}} - 1475,4 \cdot X_{\text{ETSC}} + 386,5 \cdot X_{\text{Glu}} \quad (2)$$

where

$T_{\text{rem}}$  – time period between the measurements (days),

$X_{\text{CS}}$  – citrate synthase ( $\text{nmol} \cdot \text{min}^{-1} \cdot \text{mg}^{-1}$ ),

$X_{\text{CIV}}$  – Complex IV ( $\text{nmol} \cdot \text{min}^{-1} \cdot \text{mg}^{-1}$ ),

$X_{\text{PR}}$  – physiological respiration ( $\text{pmol} \cdot \text{sec}^{-1} \cdot 10^{-6}$  platelets),

$X_{\text{ETSC}}$  – electron transport system capacity ( $\text{pmol} \cdot \text{sec}^{-1} \cdot 10^{-6}$  platelets),

$X_{\text{Glu}}$  – respiration after the addition of glutamate ( $\text{pmol}\cdot\text{sec}^{-1}\cdot 10^6$  platelets).

The function was statistically valid ( $p=0.025$ ), the Pearson correlation coefficient for the relationship between the mitochondrial function indicators and remission due date was  $r_{xy} = 0.769$ , which shows a high closeness of relationships according to Chaddock scale. The regression model (2) explains 59.1% of the variance for the remission due date in patients with manic episode of the bipolar disorder.

There was no valid model showing the remission due date dependence of the mitochondrial function indicators for patients with a depressive episode of the bipolar disorder.

## 5. Diskuse

The current study contributes to the research on the connection between pathophysiological processes in mitochondria and psychopathological symptoms in different mental disorders.

One study was focused on finding biological markers of mitochondrial dysfunction measurable in peripheral blood (Fisar Z, Raboch J, 2008). Elements isolated from the peripheral blood, especially platelets and lymphocytes, are used to study changes in biochemical processes caused by mental disorders. Though mitochondrial pathology may not be similar across all brain regions and cell types, nor a number of neurochemical parameters, this is an acceptable model reflecting changes in the CNS because isolating blood platelets doesn't require a complicated and invasive procedure. Affected mechanisms of the cellular compensation can lead to an increased ETS activity in lymphocytes as they provide the energy for the cell, and, in turn, a low platelet sensitivity may be expected (Feldhaus P et al, 2011).

We found that CI, CII and CS activity in BPD patients with mania and depression were not statistically different. These findings are in conjunction with results of previous investigations. Gubert made study where the activities of ETS