

Neurocognitive Deficits Explaining Psychosocial Function and Relapse in Depression Remission: A Systematic Review

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Abstract : Neurocognitive deficits, as well as psychosocial dysfunction, are typically observed in major depressive disorder (MDD). These deficits persist even after a significant reduction of symptoms and remission from MDD. These deficits have also been linked to greater relapse rates. The link between neurocognitive deficits, relapse, and psychosocial functioning in MDD, on the other hand, has received little attention. This review aimed to conduct an in-depth review of the literature on the association between neurocognitive deficits, relapse, and psychosocial functioning in MDD remission. We used search terms related to MDD, MDD remission, psychosocial functioning, neurocognitive impairments, and relapse to conduct a systematic review of English-language literature in PubMed, PsycArticles, PsycINFO, Medline, and Web of Science to identify relevant studies in the area from which 15 studies were identified for inclusion following an examination against inclusion/ exclusion criteria. Executive functioning, psychomotor speed, and memory were closely related to the psychosocial deficits in the phase of MDD remission. Similarly, Executive function, divided attention, and inhibition were closely related to the relapse in the phase of MDD remission. The limitations of the present review include limited and contradicting evidence that led to fewer studies being included. The implications of this review include an understanding of the difference between clinical and full-functional recovery. This evidence can be the basis for incorporating treatment measures that focus on neurocognitive and psychosocial deficits along with the affective symptoms of MDD.

Keywords : depression, MDD, remission, relapse, neurocognitive functioning, psychosocial deficits

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