



Clinical correlates of subsyndromal depression in African American individuals with psychosis: The relationship with positive symptoms and comorbid substance dependence

Emma E.M. Knowles^{a,*}, Samuel R. Mathias^a, Godfrey D. Pearlson^{a,b}, Jennifer Barrett^b, Josephine Mollon^a, Dominique Denbow^b, Katrina Aberzik^b, Molly Zatony^b, David C. Glahn^{a,b}

^a Department of Psychiatry, Yale University School of Medicine, New Haven, CT, USA

^b Olin Neuropsychiatry Research Center, Institute of Living, Hartford, CT, USA

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ABSTRACT

Patients with psychosis exhibit subsyndromal depressive symptoms during the course of illness and yet the clinical correlates of these symptoms remain under-investigated. We aimed to investigate the clinical correlates of subsyndromal depression in psychosis including the extent to which they mediate commonly observed comorbid substance dependence. We developed a model of depression in a non-clinical sample recruited via Amazon's Mechanical Turk (N = 266), and confirmed that model in a locally recruited African-American clinical sample comprising psychotic and non-psychotic individuals (N = 256). Using scores from this model we tested: the strength of relationships between depressive symptomatology and positive, negative and disorganized symptoms in a range of psychotic disorders; whether depressive symptoms were higher in individuals with affective psychoses versus schizophrenia; and if depressive symptomatology mediated the relationship between psychosis and substance dependence. Subsyndromal depressive symptomatology was significantly higher in individuals with psychosis than without psychosis, but did not significantly differ between affective and non-affective psychotic groups. Depressive symptomatology was significantly related to positive (but not negative or disorganized) psychotic symptoms, and mediated the relationship between psychosis and substance dependence. The present study underlines the importance of assessing subsyndromal depression in patients with psychosis, and generates a number of testable predictions for future work. In particular, the examination of the relationships between comorbid psychopathology, namely depression and substance abuse, may improve insight into the neurobiology of psychosis.

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1. Introduction

Symptoms of depression are highly prevalent in schizophrenia patients, with up to 59% meeting diagnostic criteria for depression (Sands and Harrow, 1999; Kessler et al., 1994; Siris and Bench, 2003) and 80% experiencing at least one clinically significant depressive episode during the course of the illness (Upthegrove et al., 2017). Clinically, depressive symptomatology is associated with worse longitudinal outcomes, increased rates of suicide, and comorbid substance use disorders (Siris and Bench, 2003; Sim et al., 2004; Buckley, 2006). The co-occurrence of depression and psychosis may hint at some overlooked biological (and possibly etiological) overlap between these putatively distinct disorders (Buckley et al., 2009). This overlap could prove informative in the search for the neurobiological underpinnings of

schizophrenia and/or MDD by identifying pairs of strongly related clinical phenotypes to inform phenotype selection in multivariate approaches for gene discovery since multivariate approaches are statistically more powerful than univariate ones (Bearden and Freimer, 2006; Knowles et al., 2015c). However, little is known about depressive symptomatology across psychosis spectrum disorders (i.e. affective versus non-affective), as well as how depressive symptoms are related to specific psychotic symptoms, particularly negative symptoms.

Depressive symptoms in schizophrenia challenge the dichotomous view of psychotic disorders (Upthegrove et al., 2017). Indeed, psychiatric research in recent years has moved away from a framework of discrete diagnostic categories towards a dimensional view (Walker et al., 2002; Ketter et al., 2004; Taylor, 1992; Wigman et al., 2015). For example, patients with psychotic disorders (e.g., schizophrenia, bipolar or major depressive disorder with psychotic symptoms) may be placed along the psychosis spectrum (Keyes et al., 2013; Reininghaus et al., 2016; Kotov et al., 2017a; Tamminga et al., 2013; Craddock and Owen,

* Corresponding author at: Yale University, Suite 6E, 40 Temple Street, New Haven, CT 06510, USA.

E-mail address: emma.knowles@yale.edu (E.E.M. Knowles).

2007). Similarly, an extensive literature suggests that depressive symptomatology has a rich multidimensional structure (Shafer, 2006; van Loo et al., 2012; Vrieze et al., 2014; Li et al., 2014). Analogously, the NIMH RDoC initiative, a committee-designed framework encapsulating various dimensional constructs, aims to organize research efforts independent of traditional diagnoses. The RDoC vision has since been updated, with a recent call to develop new data-driven dimensions of symptomatology that better reflect the true structure of behavior (Gordon, 2017). Work in this vein has already begun with the introduction of the HiTOP (Hierarchical Taxonomy of Psychopathology) consortium to develop an empirically driven classification system of psychopathology (Kotov et al., 2017b). In this study, we aimed to build directly on this by 1) deriving data-driven dimensions of depressive symptomatology and 2) utilizing these dimensions to investigate the clinical correlates of depression in transdiagnostic psychosis. A key advantage of this dimensional view is that depressive symptomatology can be assessed in individuals without a formal depression diagnosis, either because their symptoms are subsyndromal, or missed due to the presence of psychosis.

One of the challenges in assessing depression in psychosis is being able to disentangle depressive and negative symptoms (Siris and Bench, 2003). Moreover, sum scores from classical psychometric tools (developed primarily for depressed patients) are not refined enough to discriminate between negative and depressive symptoms (Fitzgerald et al., 2002; Allan and Martin, 2009; Lako et al., 2012). However, it is possible to tease these dimensions apart using carefully constructed factor models of individual items from those tools. In the present study, we applied a bifactor latent structure (Holzinger and Swineford, 1937) whereby two types of latent factors are specified: (1) a general factor reflecting commonality among all items i.e. the target dimension, here general depressive symptomatology; and (2) several orthogonal “group” factors that explain additional common variance not accounted for by the general factor, reflecting subdomains. These subdomains are sometimes referred to as “nuisance” dimensions since they arise from items that potentially interfere with measurement of the target dimension (Reise et al., 2010; Mansolf and Reise, 2017). Thus, a bifactor model distinguishes between variance attributable to general depression and to other mood-like symptomatology (e.g. negative symptoms). This approach has been utilized previously to investigate the latent structure of individual psychometric instruments in depressed individuals (Brouwer et al., 2013; Ward, 2006; Vanheule et al., 2008; Al-Turkait and Ohaeri, 2010), but has not previously been applied across multiple instruments or in schizophrenia patients.

Substance use is also common in psychosis spectrum disorders, with contentions that substance use dual diagnosis might be the rule rather than the exception (Buckley, 2006; Regier et al., 1990; Seddon et al., 2016). Previous attempts to delineate the reasons for this co-occurrence have been hampered by a tendency to exclude participants with substance use disorders (Buckley et al., 2009). We hypothesize that increased severity of depression might increase risk for substance abuse, with one possible reason being that patients attempt to reduce the distress associated with depressive symptoms (Thoma and Daum, 2013; Krystal et al., 2006). Indeed, substance use is also associated with depressive symptoms in schizophrenia (Brady et al., 1993; Kerfoot et al., 2011; Potvin et al., 2007).

We used a large (total $N = 522$; comprising a non-clinical sample recruited via Amazon’s Mechanical Turk ($N = 266$) and a locally recruited clinical sample comprising psychotic and non-psychotic individuals ($N = 256$)) sample with the aim of clarifying the clinical correlates of depressive symptomatology in psychosis. First, we developed a structural model of depressive symptomatology in a non-clinical sample using exploratory factor analysis, which makes no prior assumptions about the relationships between items. Next, we confirmed and extended the model by applying a bifactor structure in a clinical sample of patients with psychosis spectrum disorders and healthy controls. The bifactor model contained a general depression factor, G_d , as well as orthogonal

sub-domains. We calculated factor scores for all individuals in the clinical sample and used these scores to examine whether: (a) patients with and without psychosis differed in their factors scores, (b) patients with affective psychoses exhibited greater general depression (G_d) than those with schizophrenia; and (c) factor scores were associated with particular dimensions of psychosis (i.e., positive, negative, or disorganized symptoms). Our second aim was to investigate (d) the extent to which depressive symptomatology mediates the relationship between psychosis and substance dependence disorders.

2. Methods

2.1. Participants

The study contained two samples of participants. The first, referred to hereon as the *MTurk* sample, comprised 266 individuals (45% female; mean age = 36.74 years, $sd = 12.44$ years, range = 19–75 years) recruited via Amazon’s Mechanical Turk, a crowdsourcing platform that allows the hiring and paying of “workers” to complete computer-based tasks (Paolacci and Chandler, 2014). Each *MTurk* worker was paid \$1 for each completed task. On average it took a worker 20 min and 16 s to complete all questions. Amazon does not provide any published data on the average amount paid per task (also referred to as a HIT). Instead they advise requesters to ‘look at HITs similar to yours to see what the “going rate” is for HITS on Mechanical Turk’ (Amazon, 2015). At the time of testing, other studies of similar length and content were paying ~\$1 per HIT. Although all participants provided informed consent, the study was granted exemption by the institutional review board at Yale since no identifying information was collected from participants. This sample was not selected for any psychiatric illness, and the only inclusion criteria were that participants were at least 18 years old and lived in the USA. Due to unsatisfactory responses to some questionnaire items (see later), data from 134 additional participants were collected, but not included in any analyses.

The second sample, referred to hereon as the *HH* sample, comprised 256 African Americans (48% female; mean age = 39.98, $sd = 13.73$, range 18–70 years) recruited through outpatient clinics and community mental health facilities in the Hartford area. All *HH* participants provided informed consent and the study was approved by institutional review boards at Hartford Hospital and Yale University. Eighty-six participants had a psychotic disorder, including schizophrenia ($N = 41$) schizoaffective disorder ($N = 23$), psychotic bipolar disorder ($N = 7$), psychotic major depression ($N = 4$), psychosis not otherwise specified (NOS; $N = 10$), and brief psychotic disorder ($N = 1$). The remainder of the sample comprised individuals without psychosis, referred to hereon as “controls” for simplicity. Twenty-two participants had received a lifetime diagnosis of major depression, either due to a single major depressive episode ($N = 6$) or recurrent major depression ($N = 16$). Of these 22 individuals, only five had also been diagnosed with a psychotic disorder and all five had received a diagnosis of recurrent major depression. To increase the ecological validity of the sample as a whole, participants (either those with or without psychosis) were not excluded for having non-psychotic psychiatric disorders or substance dependencies (see (Mathias et al., 2018)). DSM-IV diagnoses were confirmed using the Structured Clinical Interview for DSM-IV (SCID) (First et al., 2002) and a consensus process. Additional clinical characteristics of the sample are provided in the supplemental materials (Table S1). All of the subjects in the *HH* sample were African Americans. Like other minority groups, African Americans are underserved by psychiatric research, and we specifically chose to study them for this reason.

2.2. Assessment of depressive symptomatology

Participants from both samples completed electronic versions of the Beck Depression Inventory, version II (BDI-II) (Beck et al., 1996) and the

Depression Anxiety Stress Scales (DASS) (Crawford and Henry, 2003), in addition to the two SCID screener questions pertaining to major depression: “Have you ever been consistently down, depressed or hopeless, for most of the day, nearly every day, for at least two weeks?”; and “Have you ever been much less interested in most things or much less able to enjoy the things you used to enjoy most of the time over at least two weeks?”. The MTurk sample completed additional questionnaire items, asking whether they had 1) ever visited a health professional as a result of low mood, 2) received a diagnosis of major depression, and 3) received a prescription for anti-depressant medication. MTurk participants also completed two items from the BDI and two items from the DASS twice, and four simple catch items (e.g. “Select the word beginning with the letter A: [Bear, Xylophone, Apple, Zebra]”). Participants with less than perfect consistency on the four repeated questions or any incorrect responses to the catch questions were dropped ($n=134$ individuals). Due to a coding error, item 10 from the BDI was missing from the HH sample, and thus was dropped from analyses in both samples.

2.3. Assessment of psychotic symptoms

Additionally, the HH sample (but not the MTurk sample) completed the Lifetime Dimensions of Psychosis Scale (LDPS) (Levinson et al., 2002). The LDPS captures information pertaining to dimensions of psychosis including (but not limited to) positive, negative and disorganized symptoms. This instrument allows the creation of a multidimensional profile for each individual in terms of their psychotic characteristics (Levinson et al., 2002).

2.4. Exploratory factor analysis: developing a factor model of depressive symptomatology

We subjected the MTurk data to an exploratory factor analysis (EFA) in order to derive a factor solution that would later be fit to the HH data. All exploratory analyses were conducted in R (R Core Team, 2017). First, the data were checked for errors and Cronbach's α was calculated for each questionnaire using the `psych` package (Revelle, 2017). Nonparametric correlation matrices (Kendall's τ -b) were used to inspect the data for collinearity. Parallel analysis with 1000 iterations (using the `nFactors` (Raiche, 2010) package) was used to choose the number of factors. We then conducted an EFA on the data with the suggested number of factors and promax rotation (using the `FactoMineR` package (Le et al., 2008)). Previous studies recommend that factor solutions of similar complexity as ours utilize a minimum sample of 50–300 (MacCallum et al., 1999; Jung and Lee, 2011). Thus, the MTurk sample (266 individuals) should have been large enough for the solution we found.

2.4.1. Confirmatory factor analysis: confirming the factor model of depressive symptomatology

Using confirmatory factor analysis (CFA), we fitted the factor solution from the EFA model to the HH data via Mplus (Muthén and Muthén, 2011). Three CFA models were fitted to the HH data: a model with correlated factors, a hierarchical model with a general depression factor (G_d), and a bifactor model. Goodness of fit was evaluated for each of the models using several indices, including χ^2 , Comparative Fit Index (CFI), Tucker Lewis Index (TLI), Root Mean Square Error of Approximation (RMSEA), and the Weighted Root Mean Square Residual (WRMR). Ordinarily, a significant χ^2 value is suggestive of poor model fit; however, given our large sample size, less weight was attributed to this index (Kline, 2005). For RMSEA, a value below 0.05 is considered excellent fit, while CFI and TLI values of >0.90 are indicative of a reasonably good fit (Hu and Bentler, 1999). For WRMR a value that is close to 1 indicates a good fit. For CFA, power analysis can be used to determine the sample size required so that models with poor fit can be reliably rejected. This is done by manipulating the sample size so that the upper limit of a confidence interval for the population RMSEA, given

the hypothesized RMSEA value, is less than what is operationally defined as an ill-fitting model (Maxwell et al., 2008). Given a three-factor model where $\alpha = 0.05$, $df = 1481$, sample size = 128, null RMSEA = 0.05 and alternate RMSEA = 0.08, we had 100% power to be able to reject ill-fitting models (Preacher and Coffman, 2006).

2.5. Confirmatory factor analysis: deriving factor scores

Factor scores were calculated from the bifactor model for each participant in the HH sample and saved for subsequent analysis. To be consistent with our previous work (Knowles et al., 2014b; Knowles et al., 2012; Knowles et al., 2015a, 2015b), factor scores were subjected to rank-based inverse normalization prior to any further analysis. In this bifactor model, all items load on the G_d factor, representing individual differences in general depressive symptomatology, and also load on factors representing individual symptom dimensions (Mood, Autonomic, and Irritability), which are not correlated with the G_d factor. Thus, this model allows us to quantify individuals' general depressive symptomatology, as well as specific groups of symptoms that are independent of general depression (Holzinger and Swineford, 1937; Reise et al., 2010; Knowles et al., 2014b).

2.6. Differences in depressive symptomatology in psychosis versus non-psychosis

All analyses pertaining to investigating differences in depressive symptomatology in psychosis versus non-psychosis as well as the mediation analyses were conducted in the HH sample. First, we used Wald t -tests to investigate whether scores on the general depression factor or specific factors differed between individuals with and without psychosis, and whether scores differed between those individuals with affective (schizoaffective, psychotic major depressive and bipolar disorders) and non-affective (schizophrenia) psychosis. Then, using multiple linear regressions, we explored the relationships between depression and specific psychotic symptoms. The regression models contained up to three independent variables, which reflected the three categories of psychotic symptoms—positive, negative or disorganized—from the LDPS (Levinson et al., 2002). These variables were coded such that 0 denoted absence and 1 denoted presence of any symptom from the corresponding category. Each regression model had scores on the G_d factor as the dependent variable. Bootstrapped 95% confidence intervals around the coefficients were computed using the `boot` package (Canty and Ripley, 2017; Davison and Hinkley, 2017). A robust version of the final regression model was also fitted using the `MASS` package (Venables and Ripley, 2002) and can be viewed in the supplemental material.

2.7. Mediation analysis: mediating role of G_d on the relationship between psychosis and substance dependence

We performed mediation analysis in Mplus (Muthén and Muthén, 2011) to determine whether the association between substance dependence and psychosis was mediated by G_d factor scores. We constructed four models. The first posited a direct relationship between the independent variable, psychosis (0 indicating absence and 1 indicating presence of any psychotic disorder), and the dependent variable, substance dependence. To create the dependent variable, we collapsed three substance-dependence diagnoses (alcohol, cannabis, and cocaine) into a single variable, within 0 denoting absence of any substance diagnosis and 1 denoting presence of at least one substance diagnosis. In the second model, the relationship between psychosis and substance dependence was ‘partially’ mediated by scores on the general depression factor. In the third model, the relationship was ‘fully’ mediated, also referred to as maximum evidence for mediation. The fourth model was a multi-outcome partial mediation model and represents a post-hoc

analysis wherein the three substance dependence disorders were treated as separate dependent variables.

Since the dependent variables in the mediation models were always categorical, we used a robust weighted least squares estimator (i.e. weighted least squares means and variance adjusted WLSMV). This estimator is the optimal choice for modeling categorical data since it does not assume that variables are normally distributed (Brown, 2006). We also used bootstrapping to obtain confidence intervals around the mediated effect (with 5000 resampling iterations) to determine whether it differed significantly from zero. Bootstrapping is a powerful non-parametric re-sampling method that, when applied over a large number of samples, yields more accurate confidence intervals than typical approaches (Kenny, 2016). In Mplus, under WLSMV, any variable denoted as being categorical is represented by an assumed underlying normal latent distribution i.e. as a continuous variable. We specified only Substance Dependence (Y) as being categorical and not Psychosis (X) because, as is standard in regression analysis the scale of the IV does not affect model estimation. Numerous options for standardization are available in Mplus including scaling on X and/or Y (Std_X , Std_{XY} , Std_Y). In our model, where X was dichotomous but Y was treated as continuous it made sense to scale regression coefficients only by Y, because standardization using a dichotomous variable does not make sense i.e. a standard deviation change in a dichotomous variable is not meaningful. Therefore the regression coefficients presented in the paper are scaled by Y (Std_Y) (Li, 2016; Muthén et al., 2016).

To control for multiple testing, the false discovery rate (FDR) was set at 5% (Benjamini and Yekutieli, 2001) for all main effects including all tests aimed at testing differences in depressive symptomatology in psychosis versus non psychosis and mediation analyses.

3. Results

3.1. Descriptive statistics of BDI and DASS scores

Table 1 presents means and standard deviations of scores on the BDI and DASS subscales in both samples, as well as clinical characteristics of the HH sample. Inspection of the distributions of scores on the BDI and DASS subscales (Fig. S1) reveals that they were somewhat negatively skewed in both the MTurk and HH samples, which is typical of Likert-scale data. Internal consistency was excellent: in the MTurk sample, Cronbach's α was 0.93 for the BDI and 0.97 for the DASS; for the HH sample, Cronbach's α was 0.93 for the BDI and 0.97 for the DASS. Item-total correlations in the MTurk sample (BDI r_T range = 0.04–0.79; DASS r_T range = 0.17–0.91) and in the HH sample (BDI r_T range = 0.00–0.67; DASS r_T range = 0.05–0.77) indicated good

Table 1
Depression and BDI/DASS characteristics of the MTurk (N = 266) and HH (N = 256) samples.

| Sample characteristics | MTurk | | | | HH | | | |
|------------------------------------|--------|-------|-------|-------|--------|-------|-------|-------|
| | Median | Mean | SD | Range | Median | Mean | SD | Range |
| Age | 34.00 | 36.74 | 12.44 | 19–75 | 39 | 39.98 | 13.73 | 18–70 |
| BDI total | 3 | 7.52 | 9.44 | 0–41 | 5 | 8.08 | 9.35 | 0–44 |
| DASS total | 1 | 6.25 | 9.56 | 0–42 | 9.5 | 18.21 | 20.58 | 0–94 |
| GAF score | | | | | 72 | 70.26 | 11.64 | 40–92 |
| | | | | | MTurk | | HH | |
| | | | | | N | % | N | % |
| Female | | | | | 119 | 44.74 | 123 | 48.05 |
| SCID screener MDD (a) | | | | | 78 | 29.32 | 139 | 54.30 |
| SCID screener MDD (b) | | | | | 78 | 29.32 | 112 | 43.75 |
| Visited professional for low mood? | | | | | 58 | 21.80 | | |
| Received a diagnosis of MDD | | | | | 40 | 15.04 | 22 | 8.59 |
| Received Rx for anti-depressants? | | | | | 37 | 13.91 | | |
| Single-episode major depression | | | | | | | 6 | 2.34 |
| Recurrent major depression | | | | | | | 16 | 6.25 |

discrimination for all items. In terms of convergent validity, the total scores for the BDI and the DASS correlated significantly in both the MTurk sample ($r_T = 0.89$, $p_{FDR} = 3.31 \times 10^{-89}$) and the HH sample ($r_T = 0.84$, $p_{FDR} = 3.75 \times 10^{-69}$). Inspection of the correlations between all BDI/DASS items (Fig. S2) reveals that the patterns of correlations were largely similar across the two samples.

3.2. Developing the factor model in the MTurk sample

Parallel analysis of the BDI and the DASS in the MTurk sample indicated that a three-factor solution should be selected (Fig. S3). An EFA with a specified three-factor solution exhibited a number of items with factor loadings >1 due to collinearity (DASS items: 10, 34, and 37). These problematic items were excluded and the factor analysis was performed again. The second EFA accounted for 51% of the total variance. Table 2 presents the factor solution. The first factor consisted mostly of items relating to affect, with references to “getting upset”, feeling “hopeless” and “blue”, as well as references to cognition and anhedonia. Therefore, we termed the first factor *Mood*. The second factor consisted of items related to autonomic aspects of depression and anxiety: feelings of “shakiness”, “faintness”, “breathing difficulty”, and “nervous tension”; as well as alterations in appetite and energy levels. We termed this factor *Autonomic*. The third factor consisted of items relating to irritability: for example, being “irritable”, “touchy”, “impatient”, and “agitated”. We termed this factor *Irritability*. Correlations between factors were high, but did not indicate complete overlap (Table 2).

3.3. Confirming the factor model in the HH sample

A confirmatory factor model with three correlated factors (Mood, Autonomic, and Irritability) was fitted to the HH sample. The model was a good fit to the data: $\chi^2 (=2125.53)_{1649}$, $p < 0.001$ was significant, but likely due to the large sample size. Nevertheless, other fit indices were excellent (RMSEA = 0.034 (95%CI = 0.029–0.038), $p = 1.00$; CFI = 0.98; TLI = 0.98, WRMR = 1.02). In the HH sample, forcing the factors to be orthogonal (without the inclusion of a general factor) resulted in a significant reduction in model fit ($\chi^2 = 17,423.11)_{1652}$, $p < 0.00001$, $\Delta\chi^2 = 15,298.11_3$, $p < 0.001$; RMSEA = 0.19 (95%CI = 0.19–0.20), $p < 0.001$; CFI = 0.27; TLI = 0.24, WRMR = 7.31). In the interests of calculating a general index of depressive symptomatology (see below), we fitted an additional three-factor hierarchical model (Fig. S4), which is mathematically equivalent to the correlated three-factor model and consequently was also an excellent fit to the data (see fit indices above). Finally, we fitted a bifactor model (Fig. 1) where individual symptom dimensions (Mood, Autonomic and Irritability) were forced to be orthogonal from the general factor. The bifactor model, like the correlated factors and hierarchical models, was an excellent fit to the data ($\chi^2 = 1960.54)_{1593}$, $p < 0.001$; RMSEA = 0.030 (95% CI = 0.025–0.034), $p = 1.00$; CFI = 0.98; TLI = 0.98, WRMR = 0.91), and RMSEA indicated slightly improved fit over the hierarchical model. Inspection of the loadings under this model (Table 3) show that all items loaded significantly onto the G_d factor. Some items no longer loaded significantly on their original factors under the correlated factor model; however, these alterations are not sufficient to change the interpretation of the factors (the distributions of the factor scores are shown in Fig. S5).

3.4. Is psychosis related to general depression (G_d) score?

On average, scores on the general depression factor from the bifactor model, G_d , were higher in individuals with psychosis (Fig. S6-A), ($M = 0.74$) than without psychosis ($M = -0.36$). This difference was significant ($t(159.78) = -9.81$, $p_{FDR} = 9.22 \times 10^{-17}$), and the effect was large ($r = 0.61$).

Table 2
Factor loadings and variance explained for the 3-factor promax rotated model.

| Measure | No. | Item | Factor loading | | | |
|---------------------------------------|-----|---|----------------|---------------|-----------------|----------|
| | | | 1. Mood | 2. Autonomic | 3. Irritability | |
| BDI | 2 | I feel my future is hopeless and will only get worse | 0.97 | −0.17 | −0.08 | |
| DASS | 21 | I found myself getting upset by quite trivial things | 0.96 | 0.01 | −0.17 | |
| BDI | 3 | I feel like I am a total failure as a person | 0.91 | −0.05 | −0.09 | |
| DASS | 38 | I felt that life was meaningless | 0.91 | −0.05 | −0.10 | |
| BDI | 1 | I am so sad or unhappy that I can't stand it | 0.88 | 0.08 | −0.15 | |
| DASS | 17 | I felt that I wasn't worth much as a person | 0.87 | 0.06 | −0.08 | |
| DASS | 13 | I felt sad and depressed | 0.87 | 0.04 | 0.01 | |
| DASS | 26 | I felt down-hearted and blue | 0.82 | 0.07 | 0.05 | |
| BDI | 4 | I can't get any pleasure from the things I used to enjoy | 0.77 | 0.00 | 0.12 | |
| BDI | 7 | I dislike myself | 0.74 | −0.08 | 0.11 | |
| DASS | 16 | I felt that I had lost interest in just about everything | 0.74 | 0.11 | 0.06 | |
| DASS | 3 | I couldn't seem to experience any positive feeling at all | 0.73 | 0.10 | 0.02 | |
| DASS | 13 | I was unable to be enthusiastic about anything | 0.71 | −0.02 | 0.15 | |
| DASS | 24 | I couldn't seem to get any enjoyment out of the things I did | 0.71 | 0.02 | 0.18 | |
| BDI | 9 | I would kill myself if I had the chance | 0.69 | 0.17 | −0.20 | |
| BDI | 12 | It's hard to get interested in anything | 0.65 | −0.09 | 0.26 | |
| BDI | 8 | I blame myself for everything bad that happens | 0.61 | −0.03 | 0.18 | |
| BDI | 15 | I don't have enough energy to do anything | 0.59 | 0.22 | 0.04 | |
| BDI | 13 | I have trouble making any decisions | 0.53 | 0.18 | 0.06 | |
| BDI | 5 | I feel guilty all of the time | 0.51 | 0.03 | −0.03 | |
| BDI | 14 | I feel utterly worthless | 0.44 | 0.19 | 0.03 | |
| DASS | 42 | I found it difficult to work up the initiative to do things | 0.43 | 0.28 | 0.17 | |
| BDI | 10 | I don't cry any more than usual | 0.43 | −0.04 | 0.13 | |
| DASS | 5 | I just couldn't seem to get going | 0.39 | 0.23 | 0.26 | |
| BDI | 17 | I am irritable all the time | 0.39 | 0.14 | 0.23 | |
| BDI | 16 | I wake up 1–2 h early/I sleep most of the day | 0.29 | 0.16 | 0.17 | |
| DASS | 15 | I had a feeling of faintness | −0.18 | 0.92 | −0.14 | |
| DASS | 7 | I had a feeling of shakiness | −0.23 | 0.91 | −0.04 | |
| DASS | 28 | I felt I was close to panic | 0.06 | 0.79 | −0.08 | |
| DASS | 36 | I felt terrified | 0.09 | 0.72 | −0.15 | |
| DASS | 41 | I experienced trembling | −0.16 | 0.71 | 0.06 | |
| DASS | 23 | I had difficulty swallowing | 0.04 | 0.70 | −0.22 | |
| DASS | 4 | I experienced breathing difficulty | 0.15 | 0.69 | −0.23 | |
| DASS | 33 | I was in a state of nervous tension | −0.13 | 0.68 | 0.30 | |
| DASS | 9 | I found myself in situations that made me so anxious I was... | 0.03 | 0.65 | 0.16 | |
| DASS | 40 | I was worried about situations in which I might panic | 0.17 | 0.62 | −0.02 | |
| DASS | 20 | I felt scared without any good reason | 0.06 | 0.61 | 0.06 | |
| DASS | 12 | I felt that I was using a lot of nervous energy | −0.04 | 0.61 | 0.24 | |
| DASS | 19 | I perspired noticeably in the absence of high temperatures | 0.00 | 0.53 | 0.04 | |
| DASS | 30 | I feared that I would be "thrown" by some trivial task | 0.15 | 0.49 | 0.09 | |
| DASS | 2 | I was aware of dryness of my mouth | −0.10 | 0.48 | 0.14 | |
| DASS | 25 | I was aware of the action of my heart | 0.11 | 0.48 | −0.01 | |
| DASS | 22 | I found it hard to wind down | −0.02 | 0.41 | 0.43 | |
| BDI | 20 | I am too tired or fatigued to do most of the things I used to | 0.31 | 0.46 | 0.00 | |
| DASS | 8 | I found it difficult to relax | 0.08 | 0.40 | 0.38 | |
| BDI | 6 | I feel I am being punished | 0.26 | 0.42 | −0.09 | |
| BDI | 18 | I have no appetite at all/I crave food all the time | 0.16 | 0.33 | −0.09 | |
| BDI | 19 | I find I can't concentrate on anything | 0.12 | 0.22 | −0.09 | |
| DASS | 27 | I found that I was very irritable | −0.07 | −0.04 | 0.94 | |
| DASS | 39 | I found myself getting agitated | −0.08 | 0.04 | 0.92 | |
| DASS | 1 | I found myself getting upset by quite trivial things | −0.03 | −0.03 | 0.88 | |
| DASS | 18 | I felt that I was rather touchy | −0.15 | 0.09 | 0.87 | |
| DASS | 11 | I found myself getting upset rather easily | 0.04 | −0.01 | 0.85 | |
| DASS | 6 | I tended to over-react to situations | −0.05 | −0.07 | 0.84 | |
| BDI | 11 | I am so restless or agitated that I have to keep moving or... | 0.23 | −0.18 | 0.76 | |
| DASS | 14 | I found myself getting impatient when I was delayed... | −0.14 | 0.09 | 0.74 | |
| DASS | 32 | I found it difficult to tolerate interruptions | 0.14 | 0.07 | 0.64 | |
| DASS | 35 | I was intolerant of anything that kept me from getting on... | 0.23 | −0.04 | 0.56 | |
| DASS | 29 | I found it hard to calm down after something upset me | −0.11 | 0.47 | 0.50 | |
| BDI | 21 | I have lost interest in sex completely | 0.24 | −0.06 | 0.32 | |
| Cumulative variance explained: | | | 22.50% | 37.30% | 50.80% | |
| Factor correlations in the EFA model: | | | 1 | | | |
| | | | 2 | 0.70 | 1 | |
| | | | 3 | −0.74 | −0.67 | 1 |

3.5. Is there a difference in general depression scores between affective and non-affective psychoses?

Fig. 2A shows a kernel density plot of scores on the G_d factor by group and Fig. 2B a stripplot of G_d scores split by diagnosis, inspection of these

figures indicates a large degree of overlap between disparate psychotic disorders in terms of severity of depressive symptomatology. Scores on the G_d factor were slightly higher in the affective psychosis (M = 0.56) than the non-affective psychosis (M = 0.35) group but the difference was not significant ($t(71.12) = -1.79, p_{FDR} = 0.48$).

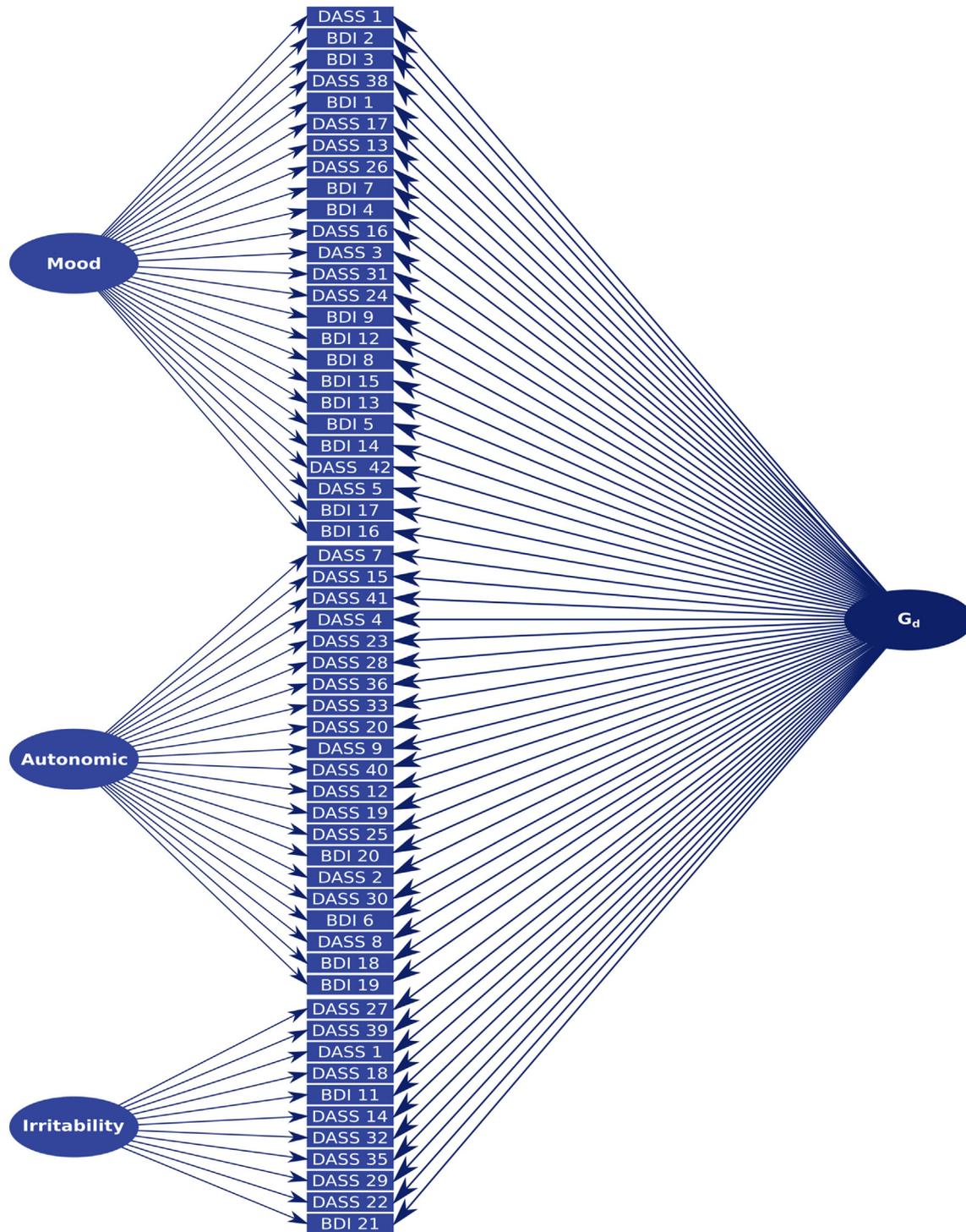


Fig. 1. Schematic of the bifactor model (for loadings see Table 3).

3.6. Is the general depression (G_d) score related to specific aspects of psychosis?

Multiple linear regression was used to predict G_d scores from the presence or absence of positive, negative and disorganized symptoms, as defined using the LDPS. Together, these three categorical predictors explained 33% of the variance in G_d score ($R^2 = 0.33$, $F(6, 249) = 20.58$, $p_{FDR} = 3.34 \times 10^{-18}$), but only positive symptoms significantly predicted scores on the G_d factor ($\beta_{positive} = 1.06$, $p_{FDR} = 6.04 \times 10^{-12}$, $95\%CI = 0.77-1.34$). Neither negative ($\beta_{negative} = 0.05$, $p_{FDR} = 1.00$, $95\%CI =$

$-0.32-0.41$) nor disorganized ($\beta_{disorganized} = 0.10$, $p_{FDR} = 1.00$, $95\%CI = -0.22-0.45$) symptoms were significant predictors of G_d scores in this model. A robust version of the same regression model yielded the same results (see **Supplemental material**). When negative and disorganized symptoms were dropped from the model, positive symptoms alone explained 31% of the variance ($R^2 = 0.31$, $F(1, 254) = 113.50$, $p = 3.77 \times 10^{-22}$; $\beta_{positive} = 1.12$, $p = 3.77 \times 10^{-22}$, $95\%CI = 0.89-1.32$). The exclusion of negative and disorganized symptoms did not lead to a significant reduction in the variance explained ($F(2, 252) = 0.22$, $p = 0.80$). In conclusion, positive psychotic symptoms—but not negative or

Table 3
Factor loadings for the bifactor model.

| Measure | No. | Item | Factor loading | | | G _d |
|---------|-----|--|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| | | | Mood | Autonomic | Irritability | |
| BDI | 2 | I feel my future is hopeless and... | 0.45**** | | | 0.61**** |
| DASS | 21 | I found myself getting upset by... | 0.26**** | | | 0.86**** |
| BDI | 3 | I feel like I am a total failure as... | 0.44**** | | | 0.65**** |
| DASS | 38 | I felt that life was meaningless | 0.26*** | | | 0.81**** |
| BDI | 1 | I am so sad or unhappy that... | 0.19** | | | 0.79**** |
| DASS | 17 | I felt that I wasn't worth... | 0.38**** | | | 0.81**** |
| DASS | 13 | I felt sad and depressed | 0.17**** | | | 0.87**** |
| DASS | 26 | I felt down-hearted and blue | 0.17**** | | | 0.85**** |
| BDI | 4 | I can't get any pleasure from... | 0.34**** | | | 0.70**** |
| BDI | 7 | I dislike myself | 0.51**** | | | 0.68**** |
| DASS | 16 | I felt that I had lost interest... | 0.20**** | | | 0.87**** |
| DASS | 3 | I couldn't seem to experience... | 0.24**** | | | 0.73**** |
| DASS | 31 | I was unable to be enthusiastic... | 0.24**** | | | 0.84**** |
| DASS | 24 | I couldn't seem to get any... | 0.22**** | | | 0.84**** |
| BDI | 9 | I would kill myself if... | 0.19 | | | 0.68**** |
| BDI | 12 | It's hard to get interested... | 0.41**** | | | 0.82**** |
| BDI | 8 | I blame myself for everything... | 0.37**** | | | 0.64**** |
| BDI | 15 | I don't have enough energy... | 0.34**** | | | 0.76**** |
| BDI | 13 | I have trouble making any... | 0.30**** | | | 0.75**** |
| BDI | 5 | I feel guilty all of the time | 0.23**** | | | 0.67**** |
| BDI | 14 | I feel utterly worthless | 0.49**** | | | 0.72**** |
| DASS | 42 | I found it difficult to work... | 0.28**** | | | 0.82**** |
| DASS | 5 | I just couldn't seem to get... | 0.19*** | | | 0.78**** |
| BDI | 17 | I am irritable all the time | −0.04 | | | 0.79**** |
| BDI | 16 | I wake up 1–2 h early... | 0.23**** | | | 0.68**** |
| DASS | 15 | I had a feeling of faintness | | 0.42**** | | 0.62**** |
| DASS | 7 | I had a feeling of shakiness | | 0.46**** | | 0.67**** |
| DASS | 28 | I felt I was close to panic | | 0.32**** | | 0.81**** |
| DASS | 36 | I felt terrified | | 0.25*** | | 0.83**** |
| DASS | 41 | I experienced trembling | | 0.42**** | | 0.70**** |
| DASS | 23 | I had difficulty swallowing | | 0.47**** | | 0.64**** |
| DASS | 4 | I experienced breathing difficulty | | 0.52**** | | 0.58**** |
| DASS | 33 | I was in a state of nervous tension | | 0.19*** | | 0.88**** |
| DASS | 9 | I found myself in situations that... | | 0.27**** | | 0.83**** |
| DASS | 40 | I was worried about situations... | | 0.27**** | | 0.83**** |
| DASS | 20 | I felt scared without any good... | | 0.23** | | 0.80**** |
| DASS | 12 | I felt that I was using a lot of... | | 0.18* | | 0.76**** |
| DASS | 19 | I perspired noticeably in the... | | 0.19 | | 0.59**** |
| DASS | 30 | I feared that I would be "thrown"... | | 0.19** | | 0.74**** |
| DASS | 2 | I was aware of dryness of... | | 0.34**** | | 0.38**** |
| DASS | 25 | I was aware of the action... | | 0.40**** | | 0.59**** |
| DASS | 22 | I found it hard to wind down | | −0.02 | | 0.72**** |
| BDI | 20 | I am too tired or fatigued to... | | −0.12 | | 0.81**** |
| DASS | 8 | I found it difficult to relax | | −0.02 | | 0.82**** |
| BDI | 6 | I feel I am being punished | | −0.16 | | 0.74**** |
| BDI | 18 | I have no appetite at all... | | −0.02 | | 0.67**** |
| BDI | 19 | I find I can't concentrate on... | | −0.09 | | 0.82**** |
| DASS | 27 | I found that I was very irritable | | | 0.25**** | 0.89**** |
| DASS | 39 | I found myself getting agitated | | | 0.28**** | 0.83**** |
| DASS | 1 | I found myself getting upset... | | | 0.15* | 0.77**** |
| DASS | 18 | I felt that I was rather touchy | | | 0.36**** | 0.68**** |
| DASS | 11 | I found myself getting upset... | | | 0.27**** | 0.84**** |
| DASS | 6 | I tended to over-react to... | | | 0.20* | 0.75**** |
| BDI | 11 | I am so restless or agitated... | | | −0.04 | 0.74**** |
| DASS | 14 | I found myself getting impatient... | | | 0.22**** | 0.75**** |
| DASS | 32 | I found it difficult to tolerate... | | | 0.46**** | 0.77**** |
| DASS | 35 | I was intolerant of anything... | | | 0.51**** | 0.77**** |
| DASS | 29 | I found it hard to calm down... | | | 0.23**** | 0.81**** |
| BDI | 21 | I have lost interest in sex... | | | −0.28** | 0.61**** |

* $p < 0.05$.

** $p < 0.01$.

*** $p < 0.001$.

**** $p < 0.0001$.

disorganized symptoms—were significantly associated with greater scores of general depressive symptomatology.

The inclusion of antipsychotic and antidepressant medication status into the above regression model did not change the results ($R^2 = 0.31$, $F(3, 252) = 38.19$, $p = 2.22 \times 10^{-20}$; $\beta_{positive} = 1.09$, $p = 9.79 \times 10^{-12}$, $95\%CI = 0.79-1.39$). Neither antipsychotic ($\beta_{antipsychotic} = -0.06$, $p =$

0.73 , $95\%CI = -0.40-0.32$) nor antidepressant ($\beta_{antidepressant} = -0.18$, $p = 0.25$, $95\%CI = -0.18-0.51$) status was a significant predictor of G_d scores. The psychosis and non-psychosis groups did not differ in terms of the distribution of sex ($\chi^2 = 0.05$, $p = 0.83$) or age ($t(187.91) = -0.06$, $p = 0.95$). The G_d score did not correlate significantly with either age ($r = 0.06$, $p = 0.37$) or sex ($r = 0.10$, $p = 0.13$).

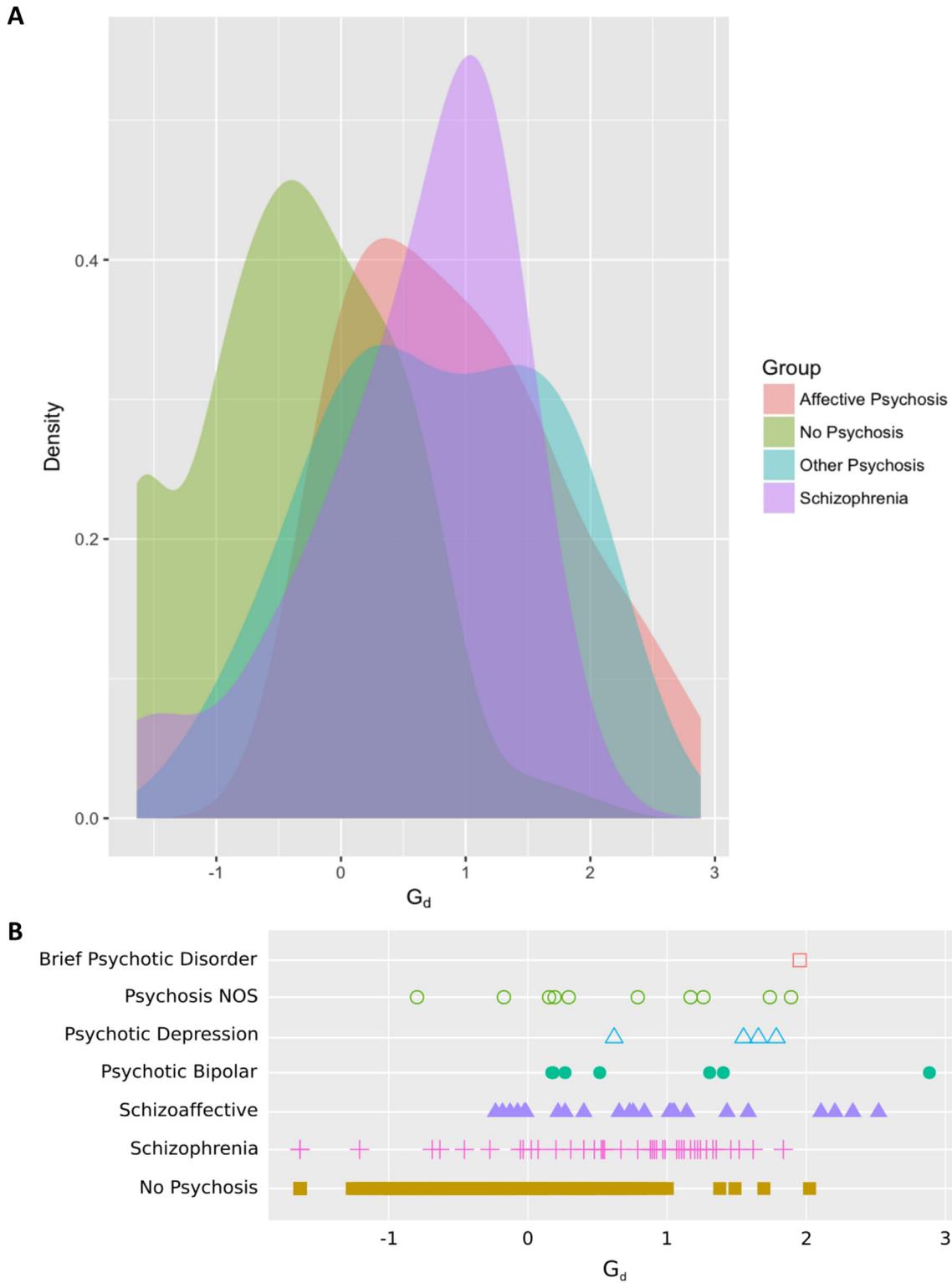


Fig. 2. Density plot (A) and strip plot (B) of scores on the general depression (G_d) factor across psychotic diagnoses.

3.7. Are mood, autonomic or irritability scores related to psychosis?

Of the three symptom domains unrelated to G_d , only Autonomic symptoms varied as a function of psychosis (Fig. S6B–D). Autonomic symptom scores were higher in individuals with psychosis ($M = 0.28$) than without psychosis ($M = -0.14$), with a small $r = 0.25$, but statistically significant difference $t(144.74) = -3.06$, $p_{FDR} = 0.02$.

Neither Mood ($t(129.28) = -1.20$, $p_{FDR} = 1.00$, $r = 0.10$) nor Irritability ($t(129.37) = -1.04$, $p_{FDR} = 1.00$, $r = 0.09$) symptom scores significantly varied as a function of psychosis. Correlation analyses indicated that Negative psychotic symptoms were significantly correlated with Mood symptoms ($r_T = 0.23$, $p_{FDR} = 2.84 \times 10^{-03}$), and that Positive and Disorganized symptoms were both significantly correlated with Autonomic symptoms ($r_T = 0.19$, $p_{FDR} = 0.02$ and $r_T = 0.20$, $p_{FDR} =$

0.01 respectively). In all cases, however, these effects were small (see Table S2 for all correlations between all psychotic and depression symptoms).

3.8. Does general depression (G_d) mediate substance dependence in psychosis?

Substance dependence was significantly more frequent in the psychosis group than the control group, 70% of people with psychosis had a substance dependence diagnosis versus 41% of controls ($OR = 3.47$, $p_{FDR} = 1.18 \times 10^{-04}$), and was significantly and positive correlated with G_d score ($r_{pb} = 0.36$, $p_{FDR} = 6.06 \times 10^{-08}$). Fig. 3 summarizes the results of the mediation analysis. A direct model (Fig. 3A) indicated a strong effect of psychosis on substance dependence. A model with partial mediation (Fig. 3B) indicated a significant indirect effect of psychosis on substance dependence via G_d , while the direct effect was reduced

and non-significant. A model with full mediation (Fig. 3C) supported an indirect effect of psychosis on substance dependence via G_d . These results suggest a strong partial, if not full, mediation of the relationship between psychosis and substance dependence by G_d i.e. general depressive symptomatology. The inclusion of antipsychotic and antidepressant medication in the model did not alter the results (Fig. S7).

Post-hoc mediation analysis was conducted to investigate the potential mediation of any specific type of substance dependence by G_d in psychosis, a multi-outcome model with three outcomes including alcohol, cannabis and cocaine dependence was fit to the data. Fig. 4A shows a partial mediation model with bootstrapped standard errors where all direct and indirect paths were allowed to vary freely. Direct effects of psychosis on alcohol ($\beta = 0.30$ $p = 0.18$, $95\%CI = -0.08-0.67$) and cocaine ($\beta = -0.11$ $p = 0.65$, $95\%CI = -0.54-0.27$) dependence were not significant, while the direct effect of psychosis on cannabis was significant ($\beta = 0.60$ $p = 0.01$, $95\%CI = 0.20-0.96$). Indirect effects were

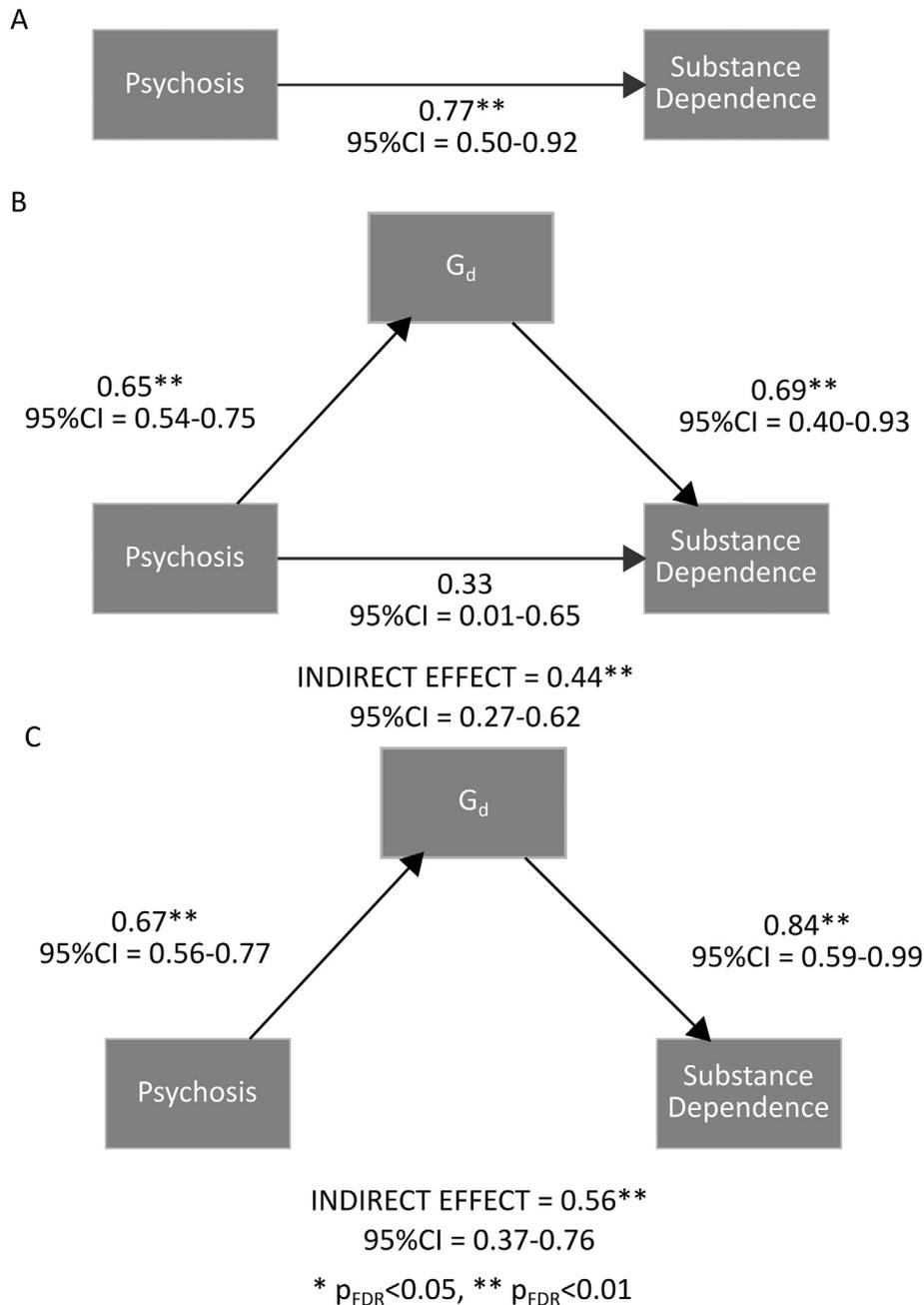


Fig. 3. Direct (A), partial mediation (B) and full mediation (C) models of psychosis, general depression (G_d) and substance dependence.

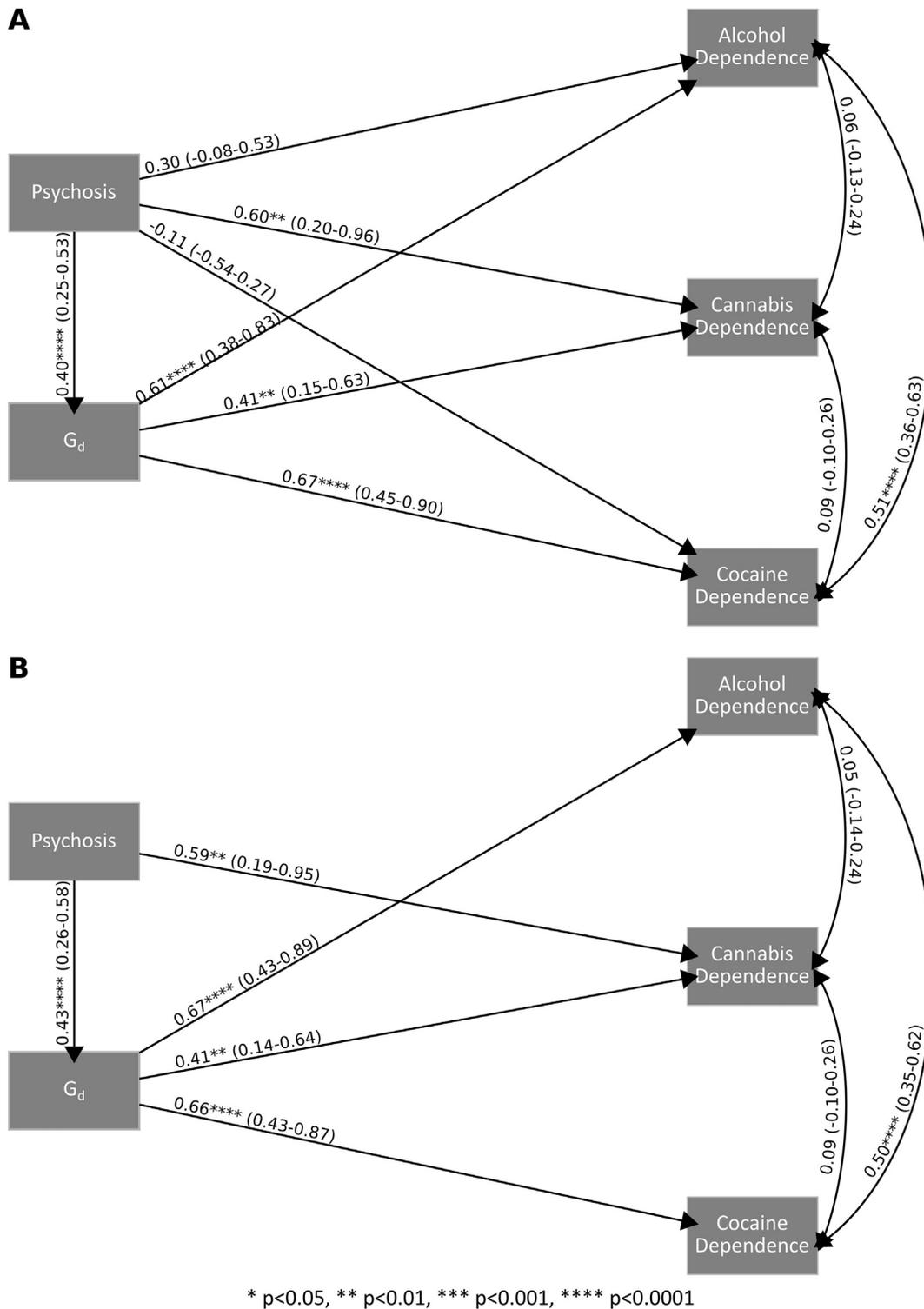


Fig. 4. Multi-outcome mediation models for alcohol, cannabis, and cocaine dependence where (A) all paths are included and (B) non-significant paths are dropped.

significant for alcohol ($\beta = 0.25$ $p = 1.00 \times 10^{-03}$, 95%CI = 0.14–0.39), cannabis ($\beta = 0.16$ $p = 0.02$, 95%CI = 0.06–0.30), and cocaine ($\beta = 0.27$ $p = 1.00 \times 10^{-03}$, 95%CI = 0.16–0.23). Fig. 4B shows the same model with non-significant direct paths (psychosis on alcohol and cocaine dependence) dropped. In this model, all direct (for psychosis on cannabis dependence: $\beta = 0.56$ $p = 8.00 \times 10^{-03}$, 95%CI = 0.19–0.95) and indirect paths were significant (for alcohol dependence: $\beta = 0.29$ $p = 4.00 \times 10^{-03}$, 95%CI = 0.15–0.44; for cannabis dependence: $\beta = 0.17$ $p = 0.03$, 95%CI = 0.06–0.33; and for cocaine

dependence: $\beta = 0.28$ $p = 1.00 \times 10^{-03}$, 95%CI = 0.16–0.45). These findings support the hypothesis that G_d partially mediates the relationship between psychosis and alcohol, cannabis and cocaine dependence.

4. Discussion

The co-occurrence of subsyndromal depression with psychosis is well established, but its clinical correlates, specifically in relation to features of the psychotic experience and comorbid substance use

disorders, remain unclear. Moreover, the hierarchical nature of psychiatric diagnoses, where schizophrenia takes precedence over depression, means that depressive symptoms are often overlooked in psychotic patients. Consequently, clinicians are unlikely to give a dual diagnosis of schizophrenia and depressive disorder (Buckley et al., 2009). This failure to fully appreciate the widespread nature of depressive symptomatology in psychosis may have serious consequences for both clinical practice and research. We developed and validated a multidimensional bifactor model of depressive symptomatology in two independent samples. First, an exploratory factor model was developed in a Mechanical Turk sample collected online. This model was then confirmed and extended in a sample of locally recruited psychotic cases and healthy controls. Using the dimensions derived from this model we showed that subsyndromal depressive symptomatology is: (a) significantly higher in individuals with psychosis than healthy controls, but (b) not significantly different in individuals with non-affective and affective psychosis, and (c) significantly related to positive, but not negative or disorganized, symptoms of psychosis. Finally, (d) our mediation analysis indicates that we have maximum evidence for mediation of the relationship between psychosis and substance dependence by general depressive symptomatology.

Our final model of depression is shown in Fig. 1. This bifactor model includes both a general factor encapsulating all items, in addition to a set of orthogonal, or independent, factors that capture subgroups of items. Herein lies the major strength of bifactor models, in that they capture multidimensionality in the data, while simultaneously retaining a single construct of interest (Reise et al., 2010). The general factor here, G_d , represents overall depressive symptomatology as indexed by all items from the BDI and the DASS. Meanwhile, the independent factors represent symptomatology relating to Mood, Autonomic and Irritability symptoms, and capture variance that is not accounted for by G_d . In line with previous findings that the majority of schizophrenia patients experience depression at some point during the illness (Buckley et al., 2009; Tandon et al., 2009; Majadas et al., 2012), we found that scores on the G_d factor were significantly higher in individuals with psychosis. However, our results also extend previous work by demonstrating that subsyndromal depressive symptoms are present across the spectrum of psychotic disorders, but also that depression severity is similar in non-affective and affective psychoses. Given the potential ramifications of depression on functional outcome (Siris and Bench, 2003; Sim et al., 2004; Buckley, 2006), our findings highlight the importance of thorough investigations of depression across the psychosis spectrum since failure to identify and treat depression in these patients may seriously hinder efforts to manage their illnesses.

Psychosis is characterized by positive and negative symptoms (Liddle, 1987; Andreasen, 1995). Positive, in this context, refers to symptoms of perceptual aberration, including hallucinations and delusions. Negative symptoms, on the other hand, refer to a deficit, or reduction of behaviors. One of the major challenges in investigating depression in psychosis is its potential overlap with negative symptoms, that is they can be difficult to distinguish from each other (Siris et al., 1988). However, we found that scores on the G_d factor were most strongly associated with positive, not negative, symptoms. In addition, both positive and disorganized symptoms correlated significantly with Autonomic symptoms relating to panic. Conversely, only negative symptoms exhibited a significant correlation with the Mood subdomain, which represents mood symptoms independent of general depression. Thus, our findings suggest that it is possible to successfully disentangle variance relating to depressive symptomatology versus negative symptoms. The association of depression with positive and not negative symptoms also fits within the previous literature on this topic. Previous work suggests that there exists an independent depressive dimension in the structure of psychosis (Uptegrove et al., 2010) where anhedonia is common to negative symptoms and depression but other core depressive symptoms are distinct (Uptegrove et al., 2017).

Under a hierarchical model of diagnoses with psychosis at the pinnacle, lower-level affective type disorders are neglected (Freeman and Garety, 2003). Our results challenge this approach by providing evidence that subsyndromal depression may arise as a consequence of, or even contribute to, the heart of the psychotic experience: positive symptoms. This ties in with research using ecological momentary assessment (EMA), where affective experience in schizophrenia patients is repeatedly sampled throughout their daily lives and shows that patients, as compared to controls, consistently report more negative and less positive emotion (Cho et al., 2017). Indeed abundant evidence that affective disorders are significantly correlated with positive symptoms in psychosis supports our finding (Hartley et al., 2013; Foulds and Bedford, 1975). Moreover, a relationship between depressive and positive symptoms is consistent with an affective model of psychosis where emotional changes and concomitant increases in arousal are instigated by the onset of anomalous perceptual experiences and contribute to the typically negative connotations of hallucinations and delusions. Thus, a vicious cycle of psychosis and non-psychotic affective psychopathology (historically referred to as neurosis) ensues where psychosis begets emotional distress, which, in turn, colors the nature of the positive symptoms, increasing distress and so on (Freeman and Garety, 2003; Garety et al., 2001; Freeman et al., 2001). Indeed, retrospective studies suggest that peak depression coincides with peak psychosis (Hafner et al., 1999). Another school of thought is that depression in psychosis is a “smoking gun” for a history of childhood trauma (Uptegrove et al., 2017; Birchwood et al., 2005). Future work might address this potential using the same methods as that in the present study, where the relationship between trauma and psychosis might be mediated by depressive symptomatology or vice versa.

This study has some potential limitations. First, is its cross-sectional design, which cannot answer questions about the time sequence of affective disturbance in relation to the advent and worsening of psychotic symptoms. Future work, particularly utilizing advances in technology enabling symptoms to be assessed on a day-to-day or even hour-to-hour basis, might address this (Gibbons et al., 2012), this would be in line with the work using an EMA, or experience sampling method (ESM) approach (Cho et al., 2017; Oorschot et al., 2009), which utilizes technology to collect participant experiences as they occur. Second, some might view is its use of online crowdsourcing platform MTurk as a weakness of the study. However, it is a strength that both non-clinical and clinical samples were used for the identification and validation of the depression model. In addition this study demonstrates the potential utility of quickly and easily gathered data via crowdsourcing for the purposes of research in psychiatry (Buhrmester et al., 2011). In particular the design of the MTurk survey, which included a number of catch and consistency items, demonstrates one way in which datasets that might be considered unreliable that are collected online can be cleaned to yield reliability in line with that seen in a locally recruited sample. There are the potential issues of residual confounding and reverse causality that may affect our mediation models, where it is possible that the direction of effect is opposite to that stated in the paper (i.e. from depression via substance dependence to psychosis), this is a problem that is common to cross-sectional research. Future work, particularly of a longitudinal design, might assess the role of confounding factors not assessed in the present study and the timeline of events where it is possible that substance dependence might precede psychosis, a relationship that could conceivably be mediated by affective factors. Moreover, future work might attempt to capture a larger sample with a greater number of psychotic individuals, particularly with affective psychoses, as the present work is somewhat limited in terms of sample size. In addition, while we examined psychosis transdiagnostically, we made a distinction between those with and without psychosis, rather than utilizing a fully dimensional view of psychosis. Future work might address this by attempting to generate and replicate a model of depressive and psychotic symptoms within the same factor model. Moreover, it would be of benefit to treat substance dependence in a similarly dimensional

fashion, future work might also incorporate scales that enable substance dependence to be modeled as such. Finally, the HH subjects were African American, like many other minority groups African Americans are underserved by psychiatric research, and we specifically chose to study them for this reason. However, this does raise the issue that, by focusing on one group, we have limited the generalizability of our findings. We would not expect the structure of depressive symptomatology to differ across ethnic groups however this might be addressed in future work.

Comorbidity of substance use disorders in psychosis is associated with relapse, as well as poor functional outcomes, such as homelessness, unemployment, treatment non-compliance, and suicidality (Potvin et al., 2007; Negrete, 2003). Substance use is also associated with depression, both in psychotic (Brady et al., 1993; Kerfoot et al., 2011; Krausz et al., 1996; Scheller-Gilkey et al., 2002) and healthy individuals (Davis et al., 2008; Hasin et al., 2002). In psychotic individuals, discontinuation of substance use is associated with concomitant reductions in positive symptoms and depression (Mullin et al., 2012) and yet the relationships between substance use, depression (Swendsen and Merikangas, 2000), and psychosis (Buckley et al., 2009), remain poorly understood. Increased substance use in schizophrenia has been posited as an attempt to self-medicate, however paradoxically substance use typically leads to a worsening of both the symptoms and course of the illness (Khantzian, 1997). The present study, in line with previous research, suggests that substance use might be linked to severity of depression. Mediation analyses showed that G_d mediated the relationship between psychosis and substance dependence, and to varying degrees this was true for cocaine, alcohol, and cannabis dependence (Fig. 4). Therefore, one possible explanation for increased substance use in psychosis is that cocaine alcohol use, and possibly to a lesser extent cannabis use, are taken to relieve distress associated with depression, but this is a tentative interpretation that requires further investigation (Thoma and Daum, 2013; Khantzian, 1985). Mediation analysis has drawbacks, primarily because it is, in essence, a correlational approach and consequently cannot establish causality. Therefore future studies should attempt to further tease apart these relationships, ideally studies of a longitudinal design, which might be used to establish temporal links between the diagnoses.

Prescription of antidepressants to schizophrenia patients is increasingly common (Mao and Zhang, 2015) and the current findings underline the need for this practice to continue. While recent meta-analytic results suggest that the beneficial effects of adjunctive antidepressant treatment for depressive symptoms in schizophrenia are small (Helfer et al., 2016), treatment effects may be masked by relatively crude assessment of depressive symptomatology. Modeling symptoms at the item-level (as opposed to using sum scores) might reveal larger beneficial effects.

In sum, our findings highlight the importance of assessing subsyndromal depressive symptomatology in individuals with psychosis, especially in relation to positive symptoms. Assessing depressive symptomatology in psychosis will yield more clinically accurate and refined phenotypes, which could be of particular use in the field of genetics where the co-occurrence of psychosis and depression may hint at a shared etiology and could be exploited under a multivariate model to reveal shared biological underpinnings. Similarly, in neuroimaging studies, high levels of subsyndromal depression could mask or exacerbate effects. Finally, this study adds to a growing literature stressing the need for a multidimensional approach to psychiatry, which goes beyond the traditional, hierarchical and dichotomous framework in which psychosis takes precedence over all other disorders.

Conflict of interest

The authors have no conflicts of interest to declare.

Contributors

Author DG designed the study and together with JB wrote the protocol. Authors EEMK, DG and GP managed the literature searches. Author EEMK undertook all statistical

analysis, and wrote the first draft of the manuscript. All authors contributed to subsequent drafts of the manuscript and have approved the final version.

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Appendix A. Supplementary data

Supplementary data to this article can be found online at <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.schres.2018.10.022>.

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