

## ABSTRACT

**Objective:** Bipolar I disorder patients show deficits in social cognition and emotion regulation even in the euthymic (remitted) state, which may be responsible for their significant social decline. Our study aimed to characterize empathic abilities of euthymic Bipolar I disorder patients.

**Method:** Empathic abilities of 40 Bipolar patients and 40 healthy subjects as controls were assessed and compared, using the Interpersonal Reactivity Index, the Reading the Mind in the Eyes test and a modified structured Thematic Apperception Test.

**Results:** Bipolar I disorder patients showed impaired cognitive (perspective taking ability) and affective (emotional concern) empathy, in addition to impaired social emotion recognition ability in comparison to the control group.

**Key words:** Empathy-theory of mind –social cognition-emotion recognition-perspective taking-Bipolar disorder