

Evidence for the role of genetics in depressive disorders

Study	Method	Findings	Conclusions/implications	Evaluation
Gershon (1990)	Family study: Meta-analysis of studies of first degree relatives of MDD and BPD	Rates of depression were about two-three times the rate found in the general population		
Egeland et al (1987)	Family study: Gene mapping; Amish people in Pennsylvania;	Generally low level of BPD in community; except in one family 11/81 had BPD; 2 marker genes on chromosome 11 were different; neighbours of genes involved in production of monoamines.		Was not replicated in similar study in Iceland (Hodgekinson 1987); questions reliability.
Wender (1986)	Adoption study:	Biological relatives of adopted sufferers were 8 times more likely than adoptive relatives to have MDD		
Allen (1976)	Twin study: Comparison of concordance rates between MZ and DZ twins	MDD: MZ 40%, DZ 11% General population 5% BPD: MZ 72%, 14% General population 1%		
Bertelson et al (1977)	Twin study:	MDD: MZ 59%, DZ 30% BPD: MZ 80%, DZ 16%		

