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par

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**Long-term anxiety and depression symptoms in caregivers of patients with moderate to severe  
Traumatic Brain Injury**

Multicenter prospective cohort study

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## ABSTRACT

**Objective.** To describe the epidemiology of anxiety and depression symptoms in caregivers of patients, 6 months after moderate to severe traumatic brain injury (TBI).

**Design.** Ancillary study of a multicentric prospective randomized-controlled trial in nine university hospital in France. The primary outcome was the prevalence of anxiety and depression symptoms in caregivers, measured with the Hospital Anxiety and Depression Scale (HADS), 6 months after the TBI. The secondary aim was the identification of the risk factors associated with anxiety-depression symptoms in caregivers.

**Measurements and main results.** From the 306 surviving patients of the COBI (COntinuous hyperosmolar therapy in traumatic Brain-Injured patients) study, 171 (56.3%) relatives were included, mostly women (80.7%), composed of spouses / husbands (47.7%) or parents (39%). Eighty-three (50.6%) relatives suffered from high levels of anxiety (HADS-A  $\geq 11$ ) and 59 (34.9%) from high levels of depression (HADS-D  $\geq 11$ ). There was no cross-over between anxiety and depression symptoms. In univariate analysis baseline severity (Glasgow Coma Scale  $\leq 8$ , 39.1% vs 25.9%, p=0.093) and episode of intracranial hypertension (44.2% vs 29.6%, p=0.055) were associated with symptoms of depressions in caregivers. No risk factors were independently associated with depression symptoms in multivariable analysis. In univariate analysis, good neurological recovery (Glasgow Outcome Score Extended (GOS-E)  $> 5$ , 63.4% vs 40.9%, p=0.0043) and improved autonomy in activities of daily living (Katz index 53.6% vs 30.4%, p=0.0397) at 6-months were associated with anxiety symptoms. In multivariate analysis, only GOS-E at 6 months remained significantly associated with anxiety symptoms (OR 2.51, IC 95 [1.33; 4.73], p=0.0046).

**Conclusions.** In this multicenter prospective cohort study, we identified a high prevalence of anxiety and depression symptoms among relatives of patients with TBI, at 6 months. Further research is needed to promote screening and psychological support strategies in caregivers.

**Key Words:** traumatic brain injury, relatives, anxiety, depression, ICU

## RESUME

**Objectif.** Décrire l'épidémiologie des troubles anxieux et dépressifs chez les proches de patients traumatisés crâniens, 6 mois après un traumatisme crânien modéré à sévère.

**Matériel et méthode.** Etude ancillaire d'une étude prospective multicentrique, randomisée, menée dans 9 CHU en France. Le critère de jugement principal était la prévalence des symptômes anxieux et dépressifs chez les proches à 6 mois post-traumatique, évaluée par l'échelle HADS (Hospital Anxiety and Depression Scale). L'identification des facteurs de risque constituait le critère de jugement secondaire.

**Résultats.** Sur les 306 patients survivants de l'étude COBI, 171 proches (56.3%) ont été inclus, principalement de sexe féminin (80.7%), époux (47.7%), ou parents (39%). Quatre-vingt trois proches (50.6%) souffraient de niveaux significativement élevés d'anxiété (score HADS-A  $\geq 11$ ) et 59 proches (34.9%) de niveaux élevés de dépression (HADS-D  $\geq 11$ ). Il n'y avait pas d'interrelation entre les symptômes d'anxiété et de dépression. En analyse univariée les symptômes dépressifs étaient associés au score de Glasgow à l'arrivée (GCS  $\leq 8$ , 39.1% vs 25.9%, p=0.093) et à la survenue d'épisodes d'hypertension intracrânienne (44.2% vs 29.6%, p= 0.055). Aucun facteur de risque ne restait significatif en analyse multivariée. Les symptômes d'anxiété étaient significativement augmentés en cas de bonne récupération neurologique à 6 mois (Glasgow Outcome Score Extended >5, 63.4% vs 40.9%, p=0.0043) et de récupération d'autonomie dans la vie quotidienne (index de Katz = 6 (53.6% vs 30.4%, p=0.0397) en analyse univariée. En analyse multivariée, seul le GOS-E restait significativement associé aux troubles anxieux (OR 2.51, IC 95 [1.33; 4.73], p=0.0046).

**Conclusion.** Dans cette étude de cohorte prospective multicentrique, nous avons mis en évidence une forte prévalence de symptômes anxieux et dépressifs chez les proches de patients traumatisés crâniens modérés à sévères à 6 mois. Des études supplémentaires sont nécessaires pour promouvoir la mise en place de stratégies de dépistage et de prise en charge psychologique chez les proches.

**Mots clefs :** traumatisme crânien, proche, anxiété, dépression, réanimation

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## **TABLE DES MATIERES**

Abstract .....	2
Résumé .....	3
Remerciements .....	4
Introduction .....	11
Methods .....	12
Statistical analysis .....	14
Results .....	15
Discussion .....	17
Conclusion .....	19
Bibliography .....	20
Appendices .....	23
Abbreviations .....	38

## INTRODUCTION

Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) affects 50 million people worldwide annually and is a major cause of death and disability around the world, especially in young healthy individuals (1). TBI is thus a major public health problem, with growing economical burden and social cost estimated at 400 billion US \$ worldwide annually (2). Among survivors, almost 50% of the patients suffer from chronic disabilities: psychiatric troubles (anxiety and depression disorders, Post Traumatic Stress Syndrome (3)), chronic pain, motor impairment, behavioral and cognitive deficits (4). These chronic health issues lead to a loss of autonomy, social difficulties, job loss, need for supervision or assistance in daily activities (5). From the initial Intensive Care Unit (ICU) admission to rehabilitation and discharge at home, families of TBI patients are deeply impacted. The family response to critical illness has been well described, and is now called PostIntensive Care Syndrome-Family (6). This term refers to the adverse psychological outcomes experienced by the family of ICU patients, with up to 30% of family members developing post-traumatic stress symptoms (7) and more than 50% suffering from symptoms of anxiety or depression (8–10). After hospital discharge, several studies (11–13) suggest that close relatives of TBI patients are more likely to experience stress, anxiety, depression, burden and poor family functioning. However, there is a lack of data on the frequency and severity of anxiety-depressive troubles, and their associated risk factors in TBI patients' relatives. Many of the current published studies suffer from limitations: small sample sizes, lack of standardization of data collection, heterogeneity of the scales used (14), variable severity of TBI or single-center approach.

The aim of this study is to describe the epidemiology of anxiety and depression symptoms in relatives of survivors of moderate to severe traumatic brain injury. We hypothesized that a better understanding of the risk factors of psychological disorders in relatives of TBI survivors will help to design innovative medical or psychological support in relatives' care.

## METHODS

This is an ancillary study of COBI (COntinuous hyperosmolar therapy in traumatic Brain-Injured patients) NCT03143751 (15).

### **Design of the COBI trial.**

The COBI study is a prospective multicenter randomized-controlled trial assessing the efficiency of continuous hyperosmolar therapy to improve neurological outcome after moderate to severe TBI (open intervention, with blinded assessment of the neurological outcome). The study was conducted in neuro-intensive care units from 9 university hospitals in France. The study protocol was approved by the Institutional Review Board of Ile de France VIII (France) the 8<sup>th</sup> of May 2017 with trial registration NCT03143751. Written consent for participation was provided by patient's legal surrogate before enrollment. Patients who had recovered sufficient capacity to provide consent were asked to consent to continue in the trial up to 6 months after trauma.

Patients aged from 18 to 80 years old, admitted for a moderate (Glasgow Coma Scale 9-12) to severe (Glasgow Coma Scale 3-8) traumatic brain injury with abnormal CT scan, were included in the first 24 hours after admission. Patients were randomized to a standard care or a continuous hyperosmolar therapy group: continuous intravenous infusion of 20% NaCl for at least 48 hours and as long as deemed necessary to control intracranial pressure. Patients were followed-up at 3 and 6 months to assess the Extended Glasgow Outcome scale, the Katz Index of Independence in Activities of Daily Living (ADL). Follow-up was performed through telephone interviews conducted by a dedicated trained medical staff and a research nurse team: three trained assessors neither involved in patient recruitment nor aware of patient assignment performed the follow-up.

### **Relatives of TBI patients**

From the 370 patients enrolled in the COBI study, 66 (21.5%) were dead at 6-months follow-up. Out of the 306 surviving patients, 171 relatives (56.3%) were included in this ancillary study. Relatives of patients who had died at 6 months were excluded, considering the anxiety and depressive disorders related to bereavement as a separate entity.

Relatives were identified as their closest person (spouse, parent, friend, child, ...), and gave consent to participate to their specific follow-up. Specific information on this ancillary study was provided to the patient's caregiver at the time of inclusion. Six months after TBI and during the patient's follow-up, the relative's written consent for participation was obtained. We centrally interrogated relatives to collect the symptoms of anxiety or depression and investigated risk factors.

### **Primary outcome**

Anxiety and depression of caregivers were evaluated 6 months after TBI, using the Hospital Anxiety and Depression Scale (HADS)(16). The HADS questionnaire was sent by mail and completed by the closest relative. The version of HADS used for the study is available in **appendix**. The HADS questionnaire consists in 14 questions divided into 2 subscales: Anxiety subscale (HADS-A) and Depression subscale (HADS-D) both containing seven items scored on four points (0-3). Responses are categorized into a specific level of Depression (D) and anxiety (A) with scores of 0, 1, 2 or 3 where 0 = no symptoms and 3 = severe symptoms. For each subscale, a zero to seven score indicates normal levels of anxiety and depression (no symptomatology), 8-10 a doubtful symptomatology and a total score equal or greater than 11 a certain symptom of anxiety or depression.

### **Secondary outcome**

We explored the risk factors linked with certain symptomatology of anxiety and depression (HADS  $\geq 11$ ). First, we explored whether relatives with a certain symptomatology of depression also displayed a certain symptomatology of anxiety. Then, we studied the impact of the intrinsic characteristics of relatives (gender, kind of relationship with TBI patient), patients (age, initial severity of TBI: Glasgow Coma Scale at admission, episode of intracranial hypertension), and the 6-month recovery (Glasgow Outcome Scale Extended GOS-E) and independence (ADL Katz index). A good neurological recovery was defined as GOS-E score 6 to 8, indicating upper moderate disability to good recovery. A GOS-E score, lower or equal to 5 indicated poor recovery,

ranging from lower moderate disability (GOS-E=5) to death (GOS-E=1). For autonomy, a score of 6 on the Katz index defined independence in the activities of daily living (17). We also evaluated the impact of extrinsic factors on anxiety and depression symptoms: treatment intervention (continuous osmotherapy or standard care) and ICU characteristics (open to visits 24 hours a day versus restricted time slots, presence of a dedicated room used for meetings with family members, psychological support for relatives). A specific model was developed for anxiety and depression symptoms.

## STATISTICAL ANALYSIS

When describing data from the COBI trial, continuous data are expressed as mean ( $\pm$ standard deviation) or median [interquartile] and compared with the Student t-test. Nominal data are expressed as N(%) and compared with the Chi<sup>2</sup> test whenever appropriate. Scores of anxiety and depression in the HADS scale are described as median (interquartile) in case of absent symptomatology (score < 8), doubtful symptomatology (score of 8-10) and certain symptomatology (score  $\geq$  11). First, we compared the epidemiology of anxiety and depression symptoms, in caregivers of patients with moderate to severe TBI. Since the repartition of anxiety and depression symptoms were not the same in caregivers, we elaborated 2 specific predictive models of anxiety and depression symptoms. First, we performed a univariate analysis comparing the risk factors between caregivers with a certain anxiety/depression symptomatology ( $\geq$  11) and caregivers with a doubtful of absent symptomatology (score < 10). In this univariate analysis we compared intrinsic factors related to the patient's baseline condition (age, severity of TBI, in-ICU intra-cranial pressure treatment), the patient's recovery at 6-months (favorable vs unfavorable outcome assessed with the Glasgow Outcome Scale, the level of autonomy assessed with the ADL), extrinsic factors such as the in-ICU organization (24/7 opening or not, availability of a full-time psychologist) or the arm of randomization and finally the relationship of the caregiver (spouse/husband, kinship...). All variables with a p value  $<$  0.2 were then kept in the multivariable logistic regression model to

predict a certain symptomatology of anxiety/depression. A backward selection of variables was performed. Risk factors are expressed with their Odds Ratio and Confidence Interval of 95%. P value < 0.05 are considered statistically significant.

## RESULTS

### TBI Patients

From November 2017 to February 2020, 370 patients with moderate-to-severe traumatic brain injury were randomized and followed-up during 6 months in the COBI study. We included 171 relatives of 171 survivors among these patients (**Figure 1**). One hundred thirty-six (79.5%) patients were male, with a median age of 43 [IQR 25-58]. Out of the 171 patients, 111 (67.8%) underwent severe TBI (Glasgow Coma Scale  $\leq 8$ ) and 42 (24.6%) had undergone an intra-cranial neurosurgery at admission. The complete description of the TBI patients at admission is provided in **Table 1**. Seventy-six (44%) patients displayed a favorable outcome (GOS-E score of 6 to 8) and 146 (86%) were independent for activities of daily living (Katz index = 6) at six months. Patients' characteristics at 6-months are reported in **Table 2**.

### Relatives

Out of the 171 relatives, 138 (80.7%) were women. The sample was composed of spouses / husbands (47.7%), parents (39.0%), and non-spouse/non-parent caregivers (14.1%) including children, siblings, friends or other relationship (**Table 2**).

### Primary outcome

Data were complete for 164 (96%) and 169 (99%) relatives regarding anxiety and depression subscale of the HADS score. Six months after trauma, half of the relatives (N=83, 50.6%) had a certain symptomatology of anxiety (HADS-A  $\geq 11$ ) and 59 (34.9%) suffered from a certain symptomatology of depression (HADS-D  $\geq 11$ ). Twenty-eight (17.1%) and 24 (14.2%) relatives did not show any symptoms of anxiety or depression respectively. Fifty-three (32.3%) and 86 (50.9%) relatives had borderline symptomatology of anxiety or depression respectively (**Table 3**).

## **Secondary outcome**

Out of the 83 relatives with certain symptoms of anxiety, only 19 (23.1%) displayed a certain symptomatology of depression. Only 19 (33.3%) out of the 57 relatives with a symptomatology of depression displayed a synergic symptomatology of anxiety. Seventeen (73.9%) of relatives without any depressive symptoms however presented clinically significant level of anxiety. Since there was no major cross-over between the symptoms of anxiety and the symptoms of depression (**Table 4**), we developed 2 specific predictive models. In the univariate analysis, the baseline severity of TBI and intensity of intra-cranial pressure treatment were not associated with certain symptoms of anxiety. The in-ICU organization (open 24/7 and assistance with a psychologist) was also not associated with anxiety symptoms. Only the 6-months favorable neurological outcome (GOS-E >5 63.4% vs 40.9%, p=0.0043) and autonomy (ADL Katz = 6 53.6% vs 30.4%, p=0.0397) were associated with a certain symptomatology of anxiety. The univariate analysis of risk factors of anxiety is displayed in **Table 5**. In the multivariable model adjusted on ADL and arm of randomization, only the 6-month favorable GOS-E was independently associated with a certain symptomatology of anxiety (OR 2.51, IC 95 [1.33; 4.73], p=0.0046).

Regarding depressive symptoms, there was a trend towards a certain symptomatology in case of severe TBI (39.1% vs 25.9%, p=0.093), or in case of intra-cranial hypertension during the ICU stay of the patient (44.2% vs 29.6%, p= 0.055). The poor neurological recovery (GOS-E <=5) at 6 months (40.4% vs 28%, p=0.0923) and decreased autonomy of patients (50% vs 32.6%, p=0.099) showed a trend towards a certain symptomatology of depression (**Table 5**). The type of kinship or relationship, in-ICU organization (psychologist, opening 24/7) were not associated with anxiety and depression disorders (**Table 5**). In multivariable analysis no risk factors were associated with a certain symptomatology of depression. ICU characteristics are available in **supplemental data**.

Regarding extrinsic factors, there was no difference related to the arm of randomization. The adjusted odds ratio for anxiety and depression in the intervention group was respectively 0.93 (95% CI, 0.50 to 1.74, p = 0.82) and 1.46 (95%CI, 0.76 to 2.82, p = 0.25).

## DISCUSSION

The present multicenter prospective cohort study provides data on the rate of Anxiety and Depression disorder in a large number of relatives of patients with moderate to severe TBI. At 6 months post injury, respectively 50.6% and 34.9% of the relatives suffered from relevant symptoms of anxiety and depression. It is interesting to note that there was no interdependence between the occurrence of anxiety and depressive symptoms, which supposed that they are two separate entities that do not affect relatives in the same way. These results are in line with Schönberger et al (12), who suggested a difference in risk factors and links between anxiety and depression. Our study supports the hypothesis that anxiety disorders are correlated with neurologic outcome at 6 months post trauma (neurological recovery: GOS-E, autonomy in activities of daily living: ADL), whereas depression disorders tend to be related to characteristics of TBI patient at admission (initial severity of head trauma) and during ICU stay (intracranial hypertension requiring a medical treatment).

These results are consistent with previous studies. Kreutzer et al (11) were the first to use validated questionnaires to measure caregivers' psychological distress, using the Brief Symptom Inventory in 1994 : 47% of family members, especially spouses, demonstrated significant levels of emotional distress in anxiety, depression and paranoid ideation. Wistanley (13), using the GHQ28 scale at 18 months post injury, found a prevalence of 50% for psychological distress, especially anxiety, insomnia, social dysfunction and somatic complains. Schönberger (12) and Kreutzer (16) found similar rates, using respectively HADS and Brief Symptom Inventory scales, with half of the relatives suffering from significant level of anxiety symptoms, and about 20% exceeded cutoff scores for depressive symptomatology. Others (18,19) report higher rates for depression disorder, suggesting that up to 48-60% of relatives of severe traumatic brain injured may experience significant depression. These numbers are considerably higher than in the general population, where the prevalence of anxiety and depression disorder is about 10% (20,21). In comparison to all these studies, our clinical trial gives the advantage to provide modern multicentric and large data on this

topic.

Our study supports the hypothesis that anxiety disorders are correlated with neurologic outcome at 6 months post trauma (neurological recovery: GOS-E, autonomy in activities of daily living: Katz index), whereas no predictive risk factors of depression were significantly retrieved.

In previous studies, predictive factors of relative psychological distress have been highlighted: post-traumatic neurobehavioral impairment of TBI survivor (23), emotional state or mood changes (12), restrictions in participation (including both occupational activities and independent living skills) or in communication (13,24,25), changes in injured individual's emotional state (5) are all associated with stress, burden, anxiety and depression. This may, in part, explain that scales measuring neurological recovery and autonomy in the acts of daily living are not sufficient to predict the occurrence of anxiety depression disorders. In most studies, women are most likely to display long-term symptoms of anxiety and depression, what is not found in our results, probably because women are highly predominant in our cohort. The relationship between the patient and the close relative was not associated with psychological troubles, which is consistent with the results suggested by some studies (5,11,26) and confirmed by the meta-analysis of Ennis et al (27).

Finally, the fact that we do not find any association between ICU characteristics and the occurrence of anxiety-depressive disorders is consistent with recent literature. Indeed, strategies of communication with family in or after the ICU (28), optimization of ICU organization to facilitate access to relative, information delivery or psychological support to relatives have been proposed to reduce intensity and the frequency of the PostIntensive Care Syndrome-Family and improve family satisfaction (6,28–30) but, with a few exceptions (31,32), most of the tested approaches have failed. Emotional distress of relatives in ICU is a multidimensional problem, which genesis seem to be hardly modulable by targeted external interventions.

Still, there is a need to identify specific tools helping to screen for those disorders (14). Although there are many other existing scales (SCL-90 : Symptom Checklist-90, BSI : Brief Symptom Inventory, Zung's Self-Rating Depression Scale, ...), we choose to use the HADS in this study

because of its simplicity, reliability and validity. Based on Bjelland et al (33) results, a cut-off of 8 is used to define caseness on each subscale, giving sensitivities and specificities of 0.80 for both. This review revealed that HADS, despite its simplicity and brevity, showed similar sensitivity and specificity as longer questionnaires like GHQ-28. Initially designed for healthy people, HADS was successfully used to assess symptoms of anxiety or depression in relatives of hospitalized patients (9) and then among TBI caregivers.

Several limitations must be underlined. First, the COBI study only included moderate to severe TBI, so the present results cannot be extrapolated to mild TBI. Second, emotional distress was measured using self-reported measure, and there is a possibility of response bias. Future studies should use clinical interview or hetero-assessment when possible. Third, interesting characteristics of relatives could have been collected: age, education level, religion, prior family health or history of psychiatric disorders. In future direction, it would be interesting to integrate other parameters correlated with anxiety and depression troubles of relatives, such as interdependence between patient and caregiver mental health (34) and protective factors : coping (35), resilience capacity (34,36). Finally, relatives of patients who died in intensive care were not interviewed. This choice refers to the fact that bereavement, especially in ICU, is a particular situation, associated with its own psychological consequences (28,37).

## CONCLUSION

This multicenter prospective cohort study has provided robust information documenting the long-term issues faced by a large sample of moderate to severe TBI patients' relatives. Based on our high overall mid-to-long term prevalence of symptoms of anxiety and depression, clinicians should be encouraged to identify and manage these disorders. This information may be used to promote education of health professionals, implementation of guidelines, generalization of screening tests and psychological support.

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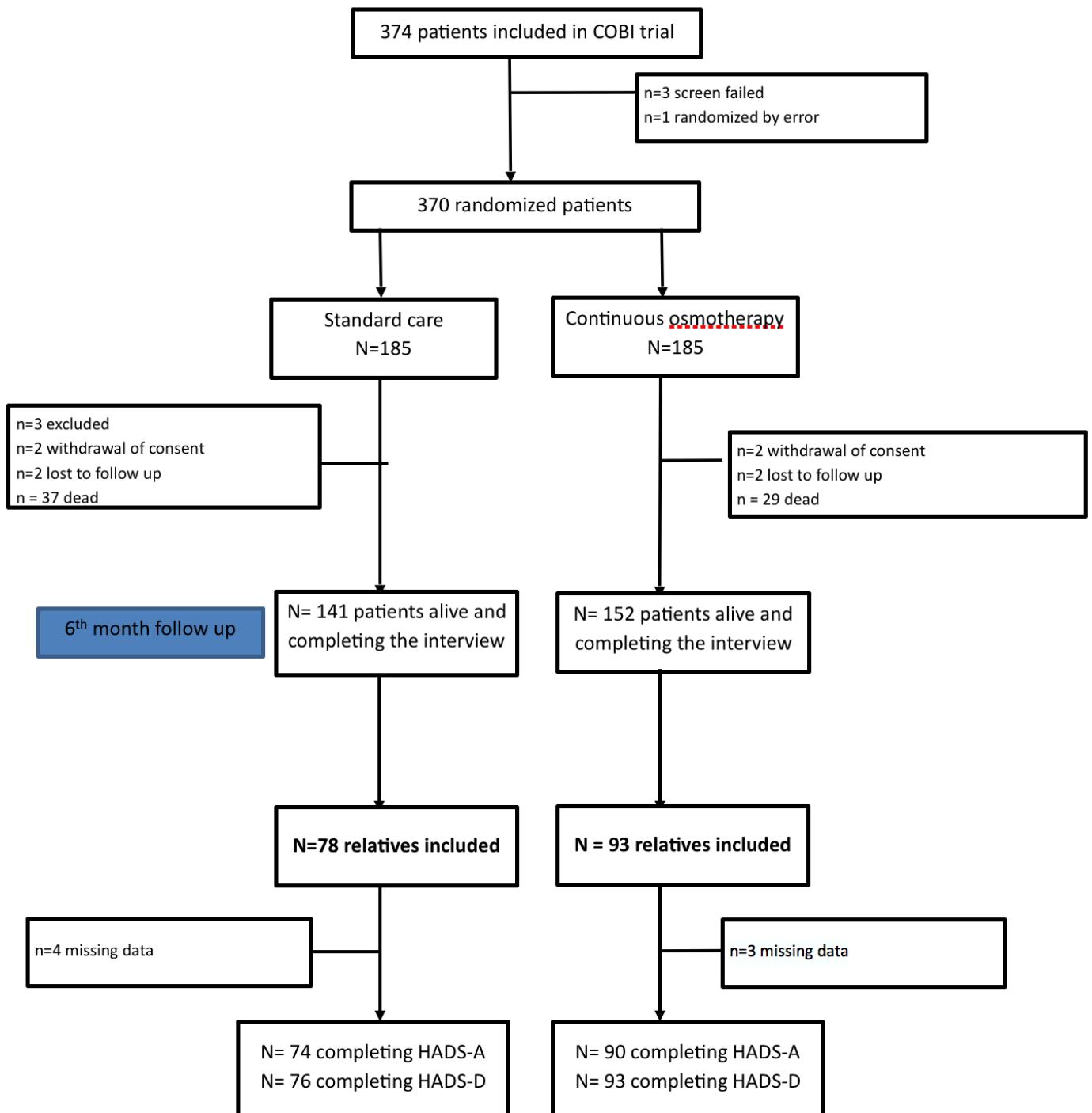
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## APPENDICES

**Figure 1 – Flowchart**



**Table 1 – Baseline Characteristics of the Patients.**

	<b>Continuous hyperosmolar therapy group N=93</b>	<b>Control group N=78</b>	<b>Total N=171</b>
Age (years) – median (25-75 <sup>th</sup> percentile)	40 (25-56)	44 (25-59)	43 (25-58)
Male – no. (%)	77 (82.8%)	59 (75.6%)	136 (79.5%)
Glasgow Coma Scale (GCS), median (25-75 <sup>th</sup> percentile), Motor response ≤ 5 – no. (%)	8 (5-9) 83 (89.3%)	7 (5-9) 74 (94.9%)	7 (5-9) 157 (91.8%)
Severe traumatic brain injury – no. (%)	61 (65.6%)	55 (71.6%)	116 (67.8%)
Pupillary response – no. (%)			
Both reacting	66 (71%)	59 (75.6%)	125 (73.1%)
One reacting	19 (20.4%)	17 (21.8%)	36 (21%)
None reacting	8 (8.6%)	2 (2.6%)	10 (5.9%)
Hypotension – no. (%)	13 (14%)	12 (15.4%)	25 (14.6%)
Hypoxia – no. (%)	11 (11.8%)	7 (9%)	18 (10.5%)
Haemoglobin level < 9.0 g/L before randomisation	4 (4.3%)	6 (7.7%)	10 (5.9%)
Marshall CT classification – no. (%)			
I: Diffuse injury, no visible intracranial pathology	6 (6.5%)	2 (2.6%)	8 (4.7%)
II: Diffuse injury, midline shift of 0 to 5 mm	40 (43%) 9 (9.7%)	38 (48.7%) 6 (7.7%)	78 (45.6%) 15 (8.8%)
III: Diffuse injury, basal cisterns compressed / effaced	3 (3.2%)	6 (7.7%)	9 (5.3%)
IV: Diffuse injury, midline shift >5 mm	27 (29%) 8 (8.6%)	9 (11.5%) 17 (21.8%)	36 (21%) 25 (14.6%)
V: Evacuated mass lesion			
VI: Non-evacuated mass lesion			
Neurosurgery before randomisation, yes – no (%)	28 (30.1%)	14 (18%)	42 (24.6%)
Decompressive craniectomy, yes – no (%)	7 (7.5%)	5 (6.4%)	12 (7%)

GCS: Glasgow Coma Scale

Severe traumatic brain injury: GCS ≤8

Hypotension: Systolic Blood Pressure <90 mm Hg before randomisation

Hypoxia: oxygen saturation <92% or PaO<sub>2</sub> < 10kPa before randomisation

Marshall CT classification: severity score based on the extent of brain damage on computed tomography, helps to quantify the severity of the brain damage and estimate the risk of developing intracranial hypertension

**Table 2 – Characteristics of caregivers included at 6-months and the specific patients included in this ancillary study.**

		<b>Continuous hyperosmolar therapy group N=93</b>	<b>Control group N=78</b>	<b>Total N=171</b>
ICU lenght of stay (days) - Median [IQR]		15 [9.00; 30.00]	17 [12.00; 32.0]	16 [10.00; 31.00]
Place of residence (N)	N	93	78	171
Hospital		26 (28%)	23 (29.5%)	49 (28.7%)
Discharged home		67 (72%)	55 (70.5%)	122 (71.3%)
Glasgow Outcome Scale-Extended (GOS- E) - 6 month				
Unfavorable outcome (GOS-E<=5) – no. (%)		51 (54.8%)	44 (56.4%)	95 (55.6%)
Favorable outcome (GOS-E>5) – no		42 (45.2%)	34 (43.6%)	76 (44.4%)
Activities of Daily Living (ADL Katz) - 6 month	N missing	0	1	1
Dependence (Katz > 6) - no. (%)		12 (12.9%)	12 (15.6%)	24 (14.1%)
Independence (Katz < 6) - no. (%)		81 (87.1%)	65 (84.4%)	146 (85.9%)
Relatives				
Male/female		11 (11.8%)/82 (88.2%)	22 (28.2%)/56 (71.8%)	33 (19.3%)/138 (80.7%)
Relationship with patients	N missing	0	1	1
Spouse		48 (51.6%)	33 (42.7%)	81 (47.6%)
Parent		35 (37.6%)	30 (39%)	65 (38.2%)

	<b>Continuous hyperosmolar therapy group N=93</b>	<b>Control group N=78</b>	<b>Total N=171</b>
Child	5 (5.4%)	7 (9.1%)	12 (7.1%)
Friend	1 (1.9%)	1 (1.3%)	2 (1.2%)
Sibling	2 (2.2%)	3 (3.9%)	5 (2.9%)
Sister	2 (2.2%)	1 (1.3%)	3 (1.8%)
Niece	0 (0%)	1 (1.3%)	1 (0.6%)
Cousin	0 (0%)	1 (1.3%)	1 (0.6%)

IQR: Inter Quartile Range

**Table 3 - Anxiety and Depression symptoms in relatives of patients, 6 months after a TBI**

	<b>OSMOTHERAPY N=93</b>	<b>STANDARD N=78</b>	<b>Total N=171</b>
HADS score - Anxiety			
N missing	3	4	7
Median [IQR]	11 [8–12]	11.00 [9–13]	11 [9–12]
Absence of symptomatology	17 (18.9%)	11 (14.9%)	28 (17.1%)
Doubtful symptomatology	28 (31.1%)	25 (33.8%)	53 (32.3%)
Certain symptomatology	45 (50%)	38 (51.4%)	83 (50.6%)
HADS score - Depression			
N missing	0	2	2
Median [IQR]	10 [8-11]	9 [8-11]	10 [8-11]
Absence of symptomatology	13 (14%)	11 (14.5%)	24 (14.2%)
Doubtful symptomatology	44 (47.3%)	42 (55.3%)	86 (50.9%)
Certain symptomatology	36 (38.7%)	23 (30.3%)	59 (34.9%)

**Table 4 - Interdependence between anxiety and depression symptoms in caregiver of patients, 6months after a moderate to severe TBI.**

		HADS depression		
		No symptomatology	Doubtful symptomatology	Certain symptomatology
HADS anxiety				
No symptomatology		2 (8.7%)	10 (12.2%)	15 (26.3%)
Doubtful symptomatology		4 (17.4%)	26 (31.7%)	23 (40.4%)
Certain symptomatology		17 (73.9%)	46 (56.1%)	19 (33.3%)

*Chi2 Test p=0.0071*

**Table 5 – Univariate analysis of risk factors for Anxiety and Depression disorders**

	<b>ANXIETY</b> Absence or doubtful <b>HADS-A 0-10</b> <b>N=81</b>	<b>ANXIETY</b> Certain symptomatology <b>HADS-A ≥ 11</b> <b>N=83</b>	<b>p-</b> <b>value*</b>
<b>Relative relationship</b>			
N missing	0	1	
Spouse/husband – no (%)	40 (51.3%)	38 (48.7%)	0.4985
Parent/child – no (%)	37 (50.7%)	36 (49.3%)	
Other – no (%)	4 (33.3%)	8 (66.7%)	
<b>TBI patient characteristics</b>			
<b>Age</b>			
Min-Max	18-77	18-74	0.6005
Average	43	42	
<b>Glasgow score</b>			
GCS ≤8 – no (%)	56 (49.1%)	58 (50.9%)	0.9176
GCS >8 – no (%)	25 (50.0%)	25 (50.0%)	
<b>Need for high intra-cranial pressure treatment</b>			
Yes – no (%)	29 (48.3%)	31 (51.7%)	0.8371
No – no (%)	52 (50.0%)	52 (50.0%)	
<b>6 month outcome of TBI patient</b>			
<b>GOS-E</b>			
Unfavorable outcome (GOS-E≤5) – no (%)	55 (59.1%)	38 (40.9%)	0.0043
Favorable outcome (GOS-E>5) – no (%)	26 (36.6%)	45 (63.4%)	

	<b>ANXIETY</b> <b>Absence or doubtful</b> <b>HADS-A 0-10</b> <b>N=81</b>	<b>ANXIETY</b> <b>Certain symptomatology</b> <b>HADS-A ≥ 11</b> <b>N=83</b>	<b>p- value*</b>
<b>Dependence (ADL Katz &gt; 6)</b>			
<b>N missing</b>	0	1	
Yes – no (%)	16 (69.6%)	7 (30.4%)	0.0397
No – no (%)	65 (46.4%)	75 (53.6%)	
<b>ICU characteristics</b>			
Full time equivalent (FTE) psychologist			
< 0.5 – no (%)	45 (50.0%)	45 (50.0%)	0.8632
0.5-1 – no (%)	36 (48.6%)	38 (51.4%)	
<b>Open to families 24 hours a day</b>			
No – no (%)	56 (49.6%)	57 (50.4%)	0.9491
Yes – no (%)	25 (49.0%)	26 (51.0%)	

	<b>DEPRESSION</b> Absence or doubtful <b>HADS-D 0-10</b> <b>N=81</b>	<b>DEPRESSION</b> Certain symptomatology <b>HADS-D ≥ 11</b> <b>N=83</b>	<b>p-</b> <b>value*</b>
<b>Relative relationship</b>			
N missing	0	1	
Spouse/husband – no (%)	51 (63.7%)	29 (36.3%)	0.6950
Parent/child – no (%)	52 (68.4%)	24 (31.6%)	
Other – no (%)	7 (58.3%)	5 (41.7%)	
<b>TBI patient characteristics</b>			
<b>Age</b>			
Min-Max	18-77	18-70	0.8206
Average	42.66	42.02	
<b>Glasgow score</b>			
GCS <=8 – no (%)	70 (60.9%)	45 (39.1%)	0.0931
GCS >8 – no (%)	40 (74.1%)	14 (25.9%)	
<b>Need for high intra-cranial pressure treatment</b>			
Yes – no (%)	34 (55.74%)	27 (44.26%)	0.0553
No – no (%)	76 (70.37%)	32 (29.63%)	
<b>6 month outcome of TBI patient</b>			
<b>GOS-E</b>			
Unfavorable outcome (GOS-E<=5) – no (%)	56 (59.6%)	38 (40.4%)	0.0923
Favorable outcome (GOS-E>5) – no (%)	54 (72%)	21 (28%)	
<b>Dependence (ADL Katz &gt; 6)</b>			
	0	1	

	<b>DEPRESSION</b> Absence or doubtful <b>HADS-D 0-10</b> <b>N=81</b>	<b>DEPRESSION</b> Certain symptomatology <b>HADS-D ≥ 11</b> <b>N=83</b>	<b>p-</b> <b>value*</b>
N missing			
Yes	12 (50%)	12 (50%)	0.0990
No	97 (67.4%)	47 (32.6%)	
<b>ICU characteristics</b>			
Full time equivalent (FTE) psychologist			
< 0.5	62 (66%)	32 (34%)	0.7908
0.5-1	48 (64%)	27 (36%)	
<b>Open to families 24 hours a day</b>			
No	73 (63.5%)	42 (36.5%)	0.5216
Yes	37 (68.5%)	17 (31.5%)	

## Supplemental data - ICU characteristics

		<b>Hyperosmolar therapy N=93</b>	<b>STANDARD N=78</b>	<b>Total N=171</b>
	N	93	78	171
Full time equivalent (FTE) psychologist	<0.5	54 (58.1%)	42 (53.8%)	96 (56.1%)
	0.5-1	39 (41.9%)	36 (46.2%)	75 (43.9%)
Open to families 24 hours a day	No	62 (66.7%)	55 (70.5%)	117 (68.4%)
	Yes	31 (33.3%)	23 (29.5%)	54 (31.6%)
Room dedicated for family meetings	No	0 (0%)	0 (%)	0 (0%)
	Yes	93 (100%)	78 (100%)	171 (100%)

## **Appendix – French version of HADS questionnaire used for the study**

Lisez chaque série de questions et cochez la case (une seule par question) correspondant à la réponse qui exprime le mieux ce que vous avez éprouvé au cours de la semaine qui vient de s'écouler.

Ne vous attardez pas sur la réponse à faire : votre réaction immédiate à chaque question fournira probablement une meilleure indication de ce que vous éprouvez qu'une réponse longuement méditée.

---

1. Je me sens tendu(e) ou énervé(e)

- |                     |                          |
|---------------------|--------------------------|
| La plupart du temps | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Souvent             | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| De temps en temps   | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Jamais              | <input type="checkbox"/> |

2. Je prends plaisir aux mêmes choses qu'autrefois

- |                  |                          |
|------------------|--------------------------|
| Oui, tout autant | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Pas autant       | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Un peu seulement | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Presque plus     | <input type="checkbox"/> |

3. J'ai une sensation de peur comme si quelque chose d'horrible allait m'arriver

- |                                     |                          |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Oui, très nettement                 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Oui, mais ce n'est pas trop grave   | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Un peu, mais cela ne m'inquiète pas | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Pas du tout                         | <input type="checkbox"/> |

4. Je ris facilement et vois le bon côté des choses

- |                         |                          |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| Autant que par le passé | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Plus autant qu'avant    | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Vraiment moins qu'avant | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Plus du tout            | <input type="checkbox"/> |

5. Je me fais du souci

- |               |                          |
|---------------|--------------------------|
| Très souvent  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Assez souvent | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Occasionnellement   
Très occasionnellement

6. Je suis de bonne humeur

Jamais   
Rarement   
Assez souvent   
La plupart du temps

7. Je peux rester tranquillement assis(e) à ne rien faire et me sentir décontracté(e)

Oui, quoi qu'il arrive   
Oui, en général   
Rarement   
Jamais

8. J'ai l'impression de fonctionner au ralenti

Presque toujours   
Très souvent   
Parfois   
Jamais

9. J'éprouve des sensations de peur et j'ai l'estomac noué

Jamais   
Parfois   
Assez souvent   
Très souvent

10. Je ne m'intéresse plus à mon apparence

Plus du tout   
Je n'y accorde pas autant d'attention que je le devrais   
Il se peut que je n'y fasse plus autant d'attention   
J'y prête autant d'attention que par le passé

11. J'ai la bougeotte et n'arrive pas à tenir en

place

- Oui, c'est tout à fait le cas
- Un peu
- Pas tellement
- Pas du tout

12. Je me réjouis d'avance à l'idée de faire certaines choses

- Autant qu'avant
- Un peu moins qu'avant
- Bien moins qu'avant
- Presque jamais

13. J'éprouve des sensations soudaines de panique

- Vraiment très souvent
- Assez souvent
- Pas très souvent
- Jamais

14. Je peux prendre plaisir à un bon livre ou à une bonne émission radio ou de télévision

- Souvent
- Parfois
- Rarement
- Très rarement

## **ABBREVIATIONS**

ADL : Activities of Daily Living

BSI : Brief Symptom Inventory

CHU : Centre Hospitalier Universitaire

COBI : COntinuous hyperosmolar therapy in traumatic Brain-Injured patients

CT : Computerized tomography

FTE : Full Time Equivalent

GCS : Glasgow Coma Scale

GOS-E : Glasgow Outcome Scale – Extended

HADS : Hospital Anxiety and Depression Scale

ICH : Intracranial Hypertension

ICU : Intensive Care Unit

TBI : Traumatic Brain Injury

LAST NAME : CHOPIN

FIRST NAME : Alice

**Thesis Title : Long-term anxiety and depression symptoms in caregivers of moderate to severe Traumatic Brain Injury patients**

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**ABSTRACT**

Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) is a major cause of death and disability around the world, leading to chronic health issues, and families are deeply impacted. This prospective multicenter cohort study, ancillary of the randomized-controlled COBI trial, included 171 relatives of moderate to severe TBI patients, screened for anxiety and depression symptoms with the Hospital Anxiety and Depression Scale (HADS) at 6-months after the trauma. Risks factors were evaluated. Eighty-three (50.6%) of the closed relatives suffered from high levels of anxiety ( $HADS-A > 11$ ) and 59 (34.9%) from high levels of depression ( $HADS-D > 11$ ). There was no interrelation between anxiety and depression, no correlation with relationship. Anxiety symptoms were significantly associated with patient's improved neurological outcome at 6 month, while depression symptoms tended to be associated with TBI initial severity but the association was not statistically significant in multivariable models.

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**KEY WORDS**

Traumatic brain injury, relatives, anxiety, depression, ICU

**Titre de Thèse : Symptômes d'anxiété et dépression à long terme chez les proches de patients traumatisés crâniens modérés à sévères**

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**RESUME**

Le traumatisme crânien (TC) est une cause majeure de décès et de handicap dans le monde, responsable de séquelles chroniques impactant les patients et leurs familles. Cette étude de cohorte prospective multicentrique, ancillaire de l'essai contrôlé randomisé COBI, a inclus 171 proches de patients ayant présenté un TC modéré à sévère, et évalué la prévalence des symptômes d'anxiété dépression à 6 mois via l'échelle HADS (Hospital Anxiety and Depression Subscale), et leurs facteurs de risque. Respectivement 83 (50.6%) et 59 (34.9%) patients souffraient de niveaux élevés d'anxiété et dépression (HADS-A et -D >11). Il n'y avait pas d'interdépendance entre les deux, pas de relation avec le lien de parenté. L'anxiété était significativement associée au bon devenir neurologique du patient à 6 mois (réécupération, autonomie) et les symptômes dépressifs semblaient liés à la sévérité initiale du TC mais sans association statistiquement significative en analyse multivarée..

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**MOTS-CLES**

Traumatisme crânien, proche, anxiété, dépression, réanimation