### Impact of mental disorders on clinical outcomes of physical diseases: an umbrella review assessing population attributable fraction and generalized impact fraction

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Empirical evidence indicates a significant bidirectional association between mental disorders and physical diseases, but the prospective impact of mental disorders on clinical outcomes of physical diseases has not been comprehensively outlined. In this PRISMA- and COSMOS-E-compliant umbrella review, we searched PubMed, PsycINFO, Embase, and Joanna Briggs Institute Database of Systematic Reviews and Implementation Reports, up to March 15, 2022, to identify systematic reviews with meta-analysis that examined the prospective association between any mental disorder and clinical outcomes of physical diseases. Primary outcomes were disease-specific mortality and all-cause mortality. Secondary outcomes were disease-specific incidence, functioning and/or disability, symptom severity, quality of life, recurrence or progression, major cardiac events, and treatment-related outcomes. Additional inclusion criteria were further applied to primary studies. Random effect models were employed, along with l<sup>2</sup> statistic, 95% prediction intervals, small-study effects test, excess significance bias test, and risk of bias (ROBIS) assessment. Associations were classified into five credibility classes of evidence (I to IV and non-significant) according to established criteria, complemented by sensitivity and subgroup analyses to examine the robustness of the main analysis. Statistical analysis was performed using a new package for conducting umbrella reviews (https://metaumbrella.org). Population attributable fraction (PAF) and generalized impact fraction (GIF) were then calculated for class I-III associations. Forty-seven systematic reviews with meta-analysis, encompassing 251 non-overlapping primary studies and reporting 74 associations, were included (68% were at low risk of bias at the ROBIS assessment). Altogether, 43 primary outcomes (disease-specific mortality: n=17; all-cause mortality: n=26) and 31 secondary outcomes were investigated. Although 72% of associations were statistically significant (p<0.05), only two showed convincing (class I) evidence: that between depressive disorders and all-cause mortality in patients with heart failure (hazard ratio, HR=1.44, 95% CI: 1.26-1.65), and that between schizophrenia and cardiovascular mortality in patients with cardiovascular diseases (risk ratio, RR=1.54, 95% CI: 1.36-1.75). Six associations showed highly suggestive (class II) evidence: those between depressive disorders and all-cause mortality in patients with diabetes mellitus (HR=2.84, 95% CI: 2.00-4.03) and with kidney failure (HR=1.41, 95% CI: 1.31-1.51); that between depressive disorders and major cardiac events in patients with myocardial infarction (odds ratio, OR=1.52, 95% CI: 1.36-1.70); that between depressive disorders and dementia in patients with diabetes mellitus (HR=2.11, 95% CI: 1.77-2.52); that between alcohol use disorder and decompensated liver cirrhosis in patients with hepatitis C (RR=3.15, 95% CI: 2.87-3.46); and that between schizophrenia and cancer mortality in patients with cancer (standardized mean ratio, SMR=1.74, 95% CI: 1.41-2.15). Sensitivity/subgroup analyses confirmed these results. The largest PAFs were 30.56% (95% CI: 27.67-33.49) for alcohol use disorder and decompensated liver cirrhosis in patients with hepatitis C, 26.81% (95% CI: 16.61-37.67) for depressive disorders and all-cause mortality in patients with diabetes mellitus, 13.68% (95% CI: 9.87-17.58) for depressive disorders and major cardiac events in patients with myocardial infarction, 11.99% (95% CI: 8.29-15.84) for schizophrenia and cardiovascular mortality in patients with cardiovascular diseases, and 11.59% (95% CI: 9.09-14.14) for depressive disorders and all-cause mortality in patients with kidney failure. The GIFs confirmed the preventive capacity of these associations. This umbrella review demonstrates that mental disorders increase the risk of a poor clinical outcome in several physical diseases. Prevention targeting mental disorders - particularly alcohol use disorders, depressive disorders, and schizophrenia - can reduce the incidence of adverse clinical outcomes in people with physical diseases. These findings can inform clinical practice and trans-speciality preventive approaches cutting across psychiatric and somatic medicine.

Key words: Mental disorders, physical diseases, outcomes, disease-specific mortality, all-cause mortality, trans-speciality prevention

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Both physical diseases and mental disorders contribute significantly to the increasing burden on health care systems worldwide<sup>1,2</sup>. Cardiovascular diseases, cancer, chronic respiratory diseases, and diabetes are accountable for more than 50% of global deaths<sup>1</sup>, while mental disorders are the third leading cause of disease burden, with depressive disorders accounting for 37% of all

years of life lost to disability, followed by anxiety disorders (23%) and schizophrenia  $(12\%)^2$ .

The Cartesian dichotomy of mental disorder-physical disease is challenged by empirical evidence from primary studies<sup>3</sup>, metaanalyses<sup>3-7</sup>, and umbrella reviews<sup>8,9</sup> showing significant prospective associations between the two realms. For instance, individuals with schizophrenia, compared to the general population, have a higher incidence of metabolic and cardiovascular diseases and of cancer<sup>10-13</sup>; those with mood disorders are at higher risk of developing cancer and diabetes mellitus<sup>7,14</sup>; and those with borderline personality disorder have a higher risk to develop a gastrointestinal disease, arthritis and chronic pain. Moreover, mental disorders have been found to increase the burden of physical diseases<sup>10,15,16</sup>.

Neurobiologically, the core mechanisms that are likely to drive the neuroprogression of mental disorders – such as inflammation, oxidative stress, apoptosis, and mitochondrial dysfunction – overlap with the mechanisms driving somatoprogression<sup>17</sup>. Moreover, mental disorders interfere with adherence to healthy behaviors and treatment<sup>18</sup>. Consequently, the occurrence of mental disorders often worsens the prognosis of physical diseases. For example, depressive and anxiety disorders are associated with a higher mortality risk in people with cancer<sup>19,20</sup>, cardiovascular diseases<sup>21,22</sup>, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease<sup>23</sup>, and diabetes mellitus<sup>24,25</sup>. The recent COVID-19 pandemic has also indicated that mental disorders are associated with higher disease severity and mortality<sup>26-28</sup>.

Despite this accumulating evidence, studies concerning the impact of mental disorders on clinical outcomes of physical diseases are often restricted to small sets of associations, sometimes with conflicting results, and therefore hold limited clinical relevance<sup>9</sup>. Relevant confounders, such as differences in diagnostic methods, the timing of the diagnosis of mental disorders<sup>9</sup> and the effect of psychiatric medications<sup>12</sup>, have not been systematically controlled for. Furthermore, the observed associations have generally not been appraised using established classification criteria to grade the credibility of the evidence and control for several types of biases.

Another limitation is that the reported associations are not directly informative for clinical practice. For example, it is unclear to what extent preventive approaches for mental disorders could reduce the incidence of clinical outcomes of physical diseases. To address this question, it is essential to quantify the proportional reduction of disease that would occur if a given risk factor is eliminated (population attributable fraction, PAF)<sup>29</sup>, or partially reduced (generalized impact fraction, GIF)<sup>30-32</sup>, in a specific population. To our knowledge, no study has estimated the meta-analytic PAF or GIF of the most robust associations between mental disorders and clinical outcomes in patients with physical diseases.

This is the first umbrella review comprehensively summarizing the evidence concerning the prospective impact of mental disorders on clinical outcomes of physical diseases using established classification criteria of evidence that address multiple biases<sup>33-35</sup>, controlling for relevant confounders, and estimating the related meta-analytic PAF and GIF. Providing a solid and rigorous synthe-

sis of this evidence is crucial to promote sound etiopathological research and to implement effective preventive strategies cutting across psychiatry and somatic medicine<sup>36</sup>.

### METHODS

We followed the Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-analyses (PRISMA) 2020 statement<sup>37</sup> and the Conducting Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses of Observational Studies of Etiology (COSMOS-E) guidelines<sup>38</sup>. The study protocol is available at the Center for Open Science (<u>https://osf.io/</u>dt4fu).

### Search strategy and selection criteria

We systematically searched PubMed, PsycINFO, Embase, and Joanna Briggs Institute Database of Systematic Reviews and Implementation Reports from inception to March 15, 2022, to identify systematic reviews with meta-analysis that examined the prospective association between any mental disorder and clinical outcomes of physical diseases. Primary outcomes were disease-specific and all-cause mortality. Secondary outcomes were diseasespecific incidence, functioning and/or disability, symptom severity, quality of life, recurrence and progression, major cardiac events, and treatment-related outcomes.

Categories of mental disorders were stratified according to the corresponding ICD-10 diagnostic blocks, in line with previous studies<sup>39,40</sup>, and defined by standard diagnostic criteria or requirements (i.e., any version of the ICD or the DSM), or established diagnostic research criteria (e.g., Research Diagnostic Criteria<sup>41</sup>), or validated assessment instruments with cut-offs that map onto discrete ICD/DSM diagnoses (e.g., Patient Health Questionnaire<sup>42</sup>).

We focused on categories of physical diseases associated with the highest burden according to the 2019 Global Burden of Disease Study<sup>1</sup> and other recent studies<sup>11</sup>: cardiovascular diseases (e.g., coronary heart disease), chronic respiratory diseases (e.g., chronic obstructive pulmonary disease), neurological diseases (e.g., multiple sclerosis), nutritional and metabolic diseases (e.g., obesity), endocrine system diseases (e.g., diabetes mellitus), kidney diseases, neoplasms, digestive diseases (e.g., liver cirrhosis), infectious diseases (e.g., human immunodeficiency virus, HIV infection), and musculoskeletal diseases (e.g., low back pain).

As a search strategy, we combined key terms and Medical Subject Headings (MeSH) terms related to these categories of mental disorders and physical diseases with terms related to the clinical outcomes of interest and to systematic reviews or meta-analyses (full details are described in supplementary information). The reference lists of the records identified during the screening process were also searched. Four independent investigators screened the records based on title and abstract reading. After excluding those that were not relevant, the full texts of the remaining records were further assessed for inclusion. Any discrepancy was solved through discussions with a fifth senior investigator. We included: a) systematic reviews with meta-analysis of observational studies with a prospective design, with meta-analytic summary estimates derived from at least two primary studies; b) primarily investigating the association between mental disorders and clinical outcomes of physical diseases (defined as above); c) published in English.

We excluded: a) systematic reviews without meta-analysis; b) systematic reviews with meta-analysis of individual participant data or network meta-analysis; c) systematic reviews with meta-analysis of randomized controlled trials, interventions, study designs other than prospective (cross-sectional and retrospective case-control studies are subject to recall bias and reverse causality); d) meta-analyses of data not identified via systematic reviews; e) meta-analyses mixing mental disorders and physical diseases without providing distinguishable association measures; e) systematic reviews or meta-analyses using unclear diagnostic criteria not operationalized as above; f) fully overlapping datasets.

When two systematic reviews or meta-analyses presented overlapping data on the same association, only the one with the largest dataset in terms of number of primary studies was retained for the specific association (the two meta-analyses could be non-overlapping for other associations). In the case of similar datasets, we selected the meta-analysis with the highest study quality. When two meta-analyses presented minimally overlapping or not overlapping datasets, nevertheless still addressing the same association, both meta-analyses were included.

Additional inclusion/exclusion criteria were applied to each of the primary studies included in the systematic reviews. Primary study-level inclusion criteria were: a) prospective cohort or longitudinal study (if a meta-analysis included multiple study designs such as randomized controlled trials and prospective studies, we only retained prospective studies); b) examining longitudinally the impact of a mental disorder on clinical outcomes of a physical disease (defined as above); c) distinguishing study participants with a mental disorder (exposed) or not (unexposed) who develop (cases) or not (controls) at least one clinical outcome of a physical disease.

Primary study-level exclusion criteria were: a) studies investigating psychiatric symptoms only but not mental disorders; b) studies reporting on clinical outcomes only for mixed categories of mental or physical diseases (e.g., anxiety and depressive disorders, or diabetes and stroke), without distinguishable estimates per pair of disorders; c) studies using unclear diagnostic criteria not operationalized as above (e.g., continuous psychometric scales without established cut-offs to estimate categorical diagnoses); d) studies reporting on outcomes other than those of interest.

### **Risk of bias**

Four independent investigators assessed the risk of bias in the included systematic reviews by using the Risk of Bias in Systematic Reviews (ROBIS) tool<sup>43</sup>, which has shown good reliability and construct validity in systematic reviews<sup>44</sup>. Any discrepancy was solved through discussions with a fifth investigator.

The ROBIS tool is applied in three phases: 1) assess relevance

(optional), 2) identify concerns with the review process, and 3) judge risk of bias in the review<sup>43</sup>. In this study, we employed phases 2 and 3. Phase 2 is divided into four domains. Domain 1 assesses concerns regarding the specification of study eligibility criteria; domain 2 evaluates any concerns regarding methods used to identify/ select studies; domain 3 covers concerns regarding methods used to collect data and appraise studies; and domain 4 focuses on concerns regarding the synthesis of results. Phase 3 assesses the overall ROBIS risk of bias in the interpretation of review findings<sup>43,45</sup>.

#### **Data extraction**

Data extraction was performed independently by three investigators and verified by a fourth investigator.

For each eligible systematic review, we extracted the standard identifier (PubMed identifier, PMID, or digital object identifier, DOI), the first author, the year and journal of publication, the number of prospective primary studies, and the specific populations evaluated. We also extracted the study-specific association measures (odds ratio, OR; risk ratio, RR; hazard ratio, HR; and standardized mortality ratio, SMR), with their 95% confidence intervals (CIs), or the indirect information needed to estimate the association measure.

For each primary study, we extracted the specific population, the number of cases (number of outcome events in participants with a mental disorder), the number of non-cases (number of outcome events in participants without mental disorders), the sample size, the method used to diagnose physical diseases, and the confounders to be tested in subgroup analyses – i.e., the method used to diagnose mental disorders, the timing of mental disorder diagnosis (before or after the diagnosis of a physical disorder), the type of estimates (fully/partially adjusted or unadjusted), the age and sex of participants, and the exposure to psychiatric medications.

For primary studies, we extracted in decreasing order of preference the fully adjusted estimates (e.g., controlling for all available covariates), the partially adjusted estimates (e.g., controlling only for age and sex or some of the covariates reported in the study) and the unadjusted estimates. Whenever studies used multiple control groups, we only considered data from participants without a mental disorder (non-exposed).

We also recorded the quality score of the primary studies and the scale used (when reported) to assess quality; otherwise, we rated the study with the Newcastle-Ottawa scale (NOS)<sup>46</sup>.

#### Statistical analysis

The main effect size of interest was the prospective association between mental disorders and clinical outcomes of physical diseases, indexed by the meta-analytic OR, RR, HR or SMR measures and eventually converted into equivalent odds ratios (eORs)<sup>33</sup> for comparative purposes. The direction of the effect sizes was harmonized<sup>47</sup>: an eOR greater than 1 indexed an increased likelihood of the outcome, while an eOR less than 1 indexed a decreased likelihood of the outcome.

Whenever studies provided effect sizes for independent subgroups (e.g., they presented effect sizes for males and females separately), we pooled them using the Borenstein method<sup>48</sup>. When multiple outcomes (e.g., all-cause mortality and cardiovascular mortality) were assessed in the same primary study, we estimated a pooled effect size<sup>10</sup>, assuming a correlation of 0.8 between outcomes<sup>49,50</sup>.

Random effects models with the restricted maximum likelihood (REML) variance estimator were employed<sup>50</sup>. The I<sup>2</sup> statistic was computed to evaluate inconsistency (I<sup>2</sup>>50% indicated high inconsistency)<sup>51</sup>, together with the 95% prediction intervals to estimate the plausible range in which the effect sizes of future studies are expected to fall<sup>52</sup>. The presence of small-study effects was tested with Egger's regression asymmetry test ( $p \le 0.05^{53}$ ).

The presence of excess significance bias was calculated by using the new Test for Excess Statistical Significance (TESS) and the Proportion of Statistical Significance Test (PSST)<sup>54</sup>. Both TESS and PSST have desirable statistical properties: adequate control of Type I errors and high statistical power, which takes inconsistency into account<sup>54</sup>. The presence of excess significance bias was assumed if either TESS or PSST was greater than the Z-score of 1.645<sup>54</sup>.

Associations were classified into five levels of evidence according to established classification criteria<sup>9,33-35,55</sup>: convincing (class I: N>1,000 cases, p<10<sup>-6</sup>, no evidence of small-study effects or excess significance bias, 95% prediction interval not including the null, and no large inconsistency); highly suggestive (class II: N>1,000 cases, p<10<sup>-6</sup>, largest study with a statistically significant effect, and class I criteria not met); suggestive (class III: N>1,000 cases, p<10<sup>-3</sup>, and class I and II criteria not met); weak (class IV: all other associations with p<0.05); and non-significant (NS: all associations with p>0.05).

A sensitivity analysis was performed by removing the criterion of N>1,000 cases to examine the robustness of the main analysis when smaller numbers of cases were included<sup>56</sup>. Subgroup analyses were also performed for associations supported by class I/II evidence to test confounders identified at the primary study level. We stratified the analyses by: a) diagnostic method (standard diagnostic criteria vs. research criteria vs. validated assessment instruments with cut-offs that map onto discrete categories); b) timing of mental diagnosis (diagnosis of mental disorder confirmed before or after the diagnosis of physical disease); c) follow-up duration (>5 vs.  $\leq$ 5 years); d) type of estimates (adjusted vs. unadjusted); e) age of participants (<50 vs.  $\geq$ 50 years old); f) exposure to psychiatric medications (yes/no); and g) sex (majority of males vs. majority of females).

The PAF analysis was conducted for each class I-III association, following a method previously established<sup>57</sup>. Prevalence data ( $\pm$  95% CIs) of mental disorders in physical diseases were extracted from the primary studies as the total number of those exposed and those in the total population of interest (e.g., the population of patients with cardiovascular diseases). The calculation of the PAF was based on Levin's formula<sup>58</sup>, which requires the RR estimate and the prevalence of the risk factor<sup>59</sup>. We converted all ORs to RRs using a standard formula<sup>60</sup>. 95% CIs for the PAFs were derived using a method previously validated<sup>40</sup>. For each association, we created 50,000 random RRs according to the RR 95% CI and 50,000 random prevalences according to the prevalence 95% CI. We then combined the random RRs and prevalences to derive 50,000 PAF estimations, from which we derived the PAF 95% CI.

While the PAF assumes a perfect intervention that fully eradicates the risk factor (i.e., 100% reduction of its prevalence)<sup>61</sup>, such a complete removal is usually unrealistic. We thus performed additional analyses by computing the GIF for factors with the largest PAFs (since the GIF is  $\leq$ PAF, the GIF analysis would be futile for smaller PAFs). The GIF estimates the proportional reduction in disease incidence given a graded reduction in the prevalence of a risk factor<sup>61</sup>.

All analyses were performed in R software, version 4.1.2, using a new evidence synthesis package developed to conduct umbrella reviews: the metaumbrella package<sup>50,62</sup>, also available as a browser-based graphical app (https://metaumbrella.org).

### RESULTS

### Database search results

The search identified 21,612 potentially relevant records, and 18,610 titles/abstracts were screened after duplicate removal (see Figure 1). Altogether, 551 full-text papers were checked for eligibility, and 47 systematic reviews with meta-analysis were eventually included in the umbrella review<sup>13,19,20,22-24,26,63-102</sup>.

The systematic reviews were published between 2004 and 2022, including a total of 251 non-overlapping primary (prospective) studies. They reported on 43 primary outcomes (disease-specific mortality: n=17; all-cause mortality: n=26) and 31 secondary outcomes (disease-specific incidence: n=6; disease-specific functioning and/or disability: n=1; disease-specific symptom severity: n=7; disease-specific recurrence or progression: n=8; major cardiac events: n=7; and treatment-related outcomes: n=2). No disease-specific quality of life outcome was reported.

The total number of participants included in each systematic review ranged from 159<sup>75</sup> to 11,309,529<sup>13</sup> (median: 3,717, interquartile range, IQR: 1,154-22,786). The participants' age ranged from 17<sup>72,85</sup> to 99 years<sup>97</sup>, and all but one systematic review<sup>20</sup> included both males and females. The number of primary (prospective) studies included in each systematic review ranged from 2<sup>73,75,78,95,99</sup> to 27<sup>76</sup> (median: 5, IQR: 3-8); their follow-up duration ranged from three<sup>79</sup> to 29 years<sup>86</sup>. About 79% of the primary studies in each systematic review were of high quality.

Most (n=38, 81%) systematic reviews examined associations between mood or anxiety disorders and clinical outcomes of physical diseases: 30 (63.8%) studied the associations of mood disorders<sup>19,24,63-65,67,68,71-74,81,82,84-94,96-100,102</sup>, and five (10.8%) the associations of anxiety disorders<sup>22,66,70,77,95</sup>, mostly with outcomes of cardiovascular, neoplastic, endocrine, infectious, neurological or respiratory diseases. Three studies (6.4%) investigated the associations of both anxiety and mood disorders with outcomes of neoplastic, neurological and respiratory diseases<sup>20,23,78</sup>.

The other diagnostic blocks were less investigated. Four sys-



Figure 1 PRISMA flow chart, JBI - Joanna Briggs Institute

tematic reviews (8.5%) studied organic, including symptomatic, mental disorders in relation to outcomes of cardiovascular, infectious or neurological diseases<sup>26,69,76,79</sup>. Two (4.2%) studied schizophrenia with regard to outcomes of neoplastic diseases<sup>83,101</sup>; one (2.1%) studied both mood disorders and schizophrenia in relation to outcomes of cardiovascular diseases<sup>13</sup>; one (2.1%) studied alcohol use disorders in regard to outcomes of liver diseases<sup>75</sup>; and one (2.1%) separately studied anxiety disorders, depressive disorders and Alzheimer's disease in relation to outcomes of a neurological disease<sup>75</sup>.

More than half (n=30, 63.8%) of the systematic reviews ascertained mental disorders using a combination of standard diagnostic criteria or requirements (DSM/ICD), research criteria and validated assessment measures with established cut-offs that map onto ICD/DSM diagnoses. Eleven (23.5%) ascertained mental disorders using exclusively the third of the above-mentioned approaches  $^{20,22,63,74,75,87,89,93,95,96,102}$ . Only six (12.7%) used standard diagnostic criteria or requirements (any version of DSM or ICD) exclusively  $^{26,76,80,83,99,101}$  (for details, see supplementary information).

There were no systematic reviews with meta-analysis examining the impact of mental disorders from the other ICD-10 diagnostic blocks on clinical outcomes of physical diseases.

### **Risk of bias**

An overall summary of the ROBIS assessment of the systematic reviews is provided in the supplementary information. A total of 26 (55.3%) reviews were at low risk of bias across all phase 2 domains. In Phase 2, 35 (74.5%) systematic reviews had a low risk of bias in domain 1, 34 (72.3%) in domain 2, 26 (55.3%) in domain 3, and 31 (66%) in domain 4. A total of 32 (68.1%) systematic reviews were rated as at low risk of bias in phase 3, which indexes the overall ROBIS risk of bias<sup>43,45</sup>.

### Summary of associations

A total of 74 associations were analyzed. Fifty-three (71.6%) presented a statistically significant effect (p<0.05), but only 15 of those (28.3%) reached p<10<sup>-6</sup>. The number of cases was greater than 1,000 for 30 associations (40.5%). Twenty-eight associations (37.8%) presented large inconsistency ( $I^2$ >50%), while for 12 (16.2%) the 95% prediction interval did not include the null hypothesis. Additionally, the evidence for small-study effects was noted for nine associations (12.1%), and excess significance bias was noted for 19 (25.6%) associations.

The summary of the associations for classes I-IV is shown in Figures 2 and 3. Only two associations (2.7%) showed a convincing level of evidence (class I), and six (8.1%) showed highly suggestive evidence (class II). Of the remaining associations, three (4.1%) showed suggestive evidence (class III), 42 (56.7%) weak evidence (class IV), and 21 (28.4%) had no evidence. In the following sections, we primarily describe the associations with the highest classes (I-III) of evidence.

### Associations of neurotic, stress-related and somatoform disorders with clinical outcomes of physical diseases

None of the 13 associations in this diagnostic block was supported by convincing or highly suggestive evidence (class I and II) for either primary or secondary outcomes. Only the association between anxiety disorders and cardiovascular mortality in patients with cardiovascular diseases (RR=1.46, 95% CI: 1.17-1.82) presented a suggestive evidence level (class III). There was weak evidence (class IV) for four associations concerning secondary outcomes. No evidence was found for the remaining eight associations concerning primary and secondary outcomes (see Figures 2 and 3, Table 1 and supplementary information).

After removing the N>1,000 cases criterion in sensitivity analysis, the two associations between anxiety disorders and major cardiac events were upgraded from weak (class IV) to suggestive evidence (class III). The level of evidence of the other associations remained unchanged (see Table 1 and supplementary information).

### Associations of mood disorders with clinical outcomes of physical diseases

Among the 49 associations in this diagnostic block, only that between depressive disorders and all-cause mortality among patients with heart failure (HR=1.44, 95% CI: 1.26-1.65) presented a convincing level of association (class I) (see Figure 2 and Table 2).

Highly suggestive evidence (class II) was found for associations between depressive disorders and all-cause mortality in patients with kidney failure (HR=1.41, 95% CI: 1.31-1.51) and in those with diabetes mellitus (HR=2.84, 95% CI: 2.00-4.03); for the association between depressive disorders and major cardiac events in patients with myocardial infarction (OR=1.52, 95% CI: 1.36-1.70); and for the association between depressive disorders and dementia in patients with diabetes mellitus (HR=2.11, 95% CI: 1.77-2.52) (see Figure 2, Table 2 and supplementary information).

There was suggestive evidence (class III) for two associations: that between bipolar disorder and cardiovascular mortality in patients with cardiovascular diseases (RR=1.65, 95% CI: 1.32-2.06),

Meta-analysis	Mental disorder	Physical disease	Class I		eOR (95% CI)
Correll et al <sup>13</sup>	Schizophrenia	Cardiovascular diseases	Cardiovascular mortality	-	1.54 (1.36-1.75)
Sokoreli et al <sup>93</sup>	Depressive disorders	Heart failure	All-cause mortality	-	1.44 (1.26-1.65)
			Class II		
Llamosas-Falcón et al <sup>80</sup>	Alcohol use disorder	Hepatitis C	Decompensated liver cirrhosis	-	3.15 (2.87-3.46)
Hofmann et al <sup>24</sup>	Depressive disorders	Diabetes mellitus	All-cause mortality		2.84 (2.00-4.03)
Chow et al <sup>67</sup>	Depressive disorders	Diabetes mellitus	Dementia		2.11 (1.77-2.52)
Zhuo et al <sup>101</sup>	Schizophrenia	Cancer	Cancer mortality		1.74 (1.41-2.15)
Meijer et al <sup>81</sup>	Depressive disorders	Myocardial infarction	Major cardiac events	-	1.52 (1.36-1.70)
Farrokhi et al <sup>72</sup>	Depressive disorders	Kidney failure	All-cause mortality	-	1.41 (1.31-1.51)
			Class III		
Correll et al <sup>13</sup>	Bipolar disorder	Cardiovascular diseases	Cardiovascular mortality		1.65 (1.32-2.06)
Emdin et al <sup>70</sup>	Anxiety disorders	Cardiovascular diseases	Cardiovascular mortality		1.46 (1.17-1.82)
Palmer et al <sup>85</sup>	Depressive disorders	Chronic kidney disease	All-cause mortality		1.45 (1.22-1.73)
			0.17 0.41	1 2.45	6

Equivalent odds ratio (eOR)

Figure 2 Forest plot of prospective associations between mental disorders and clinical outcomes of physical diseases, stratified by class I, II and III of evidence

Meta-analysis	Mental disorder	Physical disease	Class IV	eOR (95% CI)
Ding et al <sup>69</sup>	Dementia	Stroke	Delirium	5.90 (3.95-8.83)
Ruiz-Grosso et al <sup>87</sup>	Depressive disorders	Tuberculosis	Negative outcomes in treatment	4.21 (2.33-7.58)
Llamosas-Falcón et al <sup>80</sup>	Alcohol use disorder	Hepatitis C	Negative course liver disease	3.83 (1.24-11.85)
Liu et al <sup>79</sup>	Dementia	Hip fracture	All-cause mortality	3.72 (1.60-8.67)
Ruiz-Grosso et al <sup>87</sup>	Depressive disorders	Tuberculosis	Tuberculosis mortality	2.85 (1.52-5.36)
Guo et al <sup>75</sup>	Anxiety disorders	Parkinson's disease	Cognitive impairment	2.59 (1.18-5.68)
Ni et al <sup>83</sup>	Schizophrenia	Breast cancer	Breast cancer mortality	2.54 (1.56-4.14)
Meijer et al <sup>81</sup>	Depressive disorders	Myocardial infarction	Cardiovascular mortality	2.37 (1.47-3.82)
Scott et al <sup>90</sup>	Depressive disorders	Human immunodeficiency virus	Pain	2.26 (1.47-3.46)
Hariyanto et al <sup>76</sup>	Dementia	COVID-19	All-cause mortality	2.24 (1.26-3.98)
Ni et al <sup>83</sup>	Schizophrenia	Lung cancer	Lung cancer mortality	2.24 (1.67-3.01)
Meijer et al <sup>81</sup>	Depressive disorders	Myocardial infarction	All-cause mortality	2.24 (1.65-3.03)
Liu et al <sup>79</sup>	Delirium	Hip fracture	All-cause mortality	2.21 (1.49-3.27)
Blöchl et al <sup>102</sup>	Depressive disorders	Stroke	Poor functional outcome	2.15 (1.51-3.07)
Rutledge et al <sup>88</sup>	Depressive disorders	Heartfailure	Major cardiac events	2.12 (1.66-2.72)
Shi et al <sup>92</sup>	Depressive disorders	Coronary artery disease	Atrial fibrillation recurrence	1.85 (1.51-2.26)
Song et al <sup>94</sup>	Depressive disorders	Percutaneous coronary intervention	All-cause mortality	1.76 (1.45-2.13)
Barth et al63	Depressive disorders	Coronary artery disease	All-cause mortality	<b>—</b> 1.73 (1.16-2.57)
Roest et al <sup>22</sup>	Anxiety disorders	Myocardial infarction	Major cardiac events	1.71 (1.25-2.34)
Yuan et al <sup>99</sup>	Bipolar disorder	Stroke	Stroke mortality	1.69 (1.11-2.55)
Bartoli et al64	Depressive disorders	Stroke	All-cause mortality	1.63 (1.10-2.41)
Wu & Kling <sup>97</sup>	Depressive disorders	Coronary artery disease	Cardiovascular mortality	1.59 (1.08-2.35)
Nicholson et alº*	Depressive disorders	Coronary artery disease	All-cause mortality	1.59 (1.36-1.87)
VVu et al%	Depressive disorders	Stroke	Stroke recurrence	1.59 (1.29-1.95)
Zhang et al	Depressive disorders	Percutaneous coronary intervention	Major cardiac events	1.57 (1.27-1.94)
Cai et al <sup>65</sup>	Depressive disorders	Stroke	All-cause mortality	1.55 (1.19-2.02)
Hofmann et al24	Depressive disorders	Diabetes mellitus	All-cause mortality	1.54 (1.09-2.18)
Shi et al <sup>92</sup>	Depressive disorders	Coronary artery disease	Ventricular tachycardia/fibrillation	1.49 (1.22-1.82)
Gatnright et al	Depressive disorders	Heart failure	All-cause mortality	
Li et al''	Anxiety disorders	Acute coronary syndrome	Major cardiac events	1.46 (1.19-1.78)
Vvang et al <sup>20</sup>	Depressive disorders	Breast cancer	Breast cancer mortality	<b>1.45 (1.04-2.01)</b>
Correll et al <sup>16</sup>	Depressive disorders	Cardiovascular diseases	Cardiovascular mortality	
Pan et al <sup>10</sup>	Depressive disorders	Stroke	Stroke monality	
Satin et al."	Depressive disorders	Cancer	All-cause mortality	
	Depressive disorders	Coronary artery bypass gran	All-cause monality	
Farooqi et al <sup>71</sup>	Depressive disorders	Diabetes mellitus	Coronary artery disease	1.35 (1.13-1.00)
Falooqi et al'	Depressive disorders	Diabetes menitus	Musserdial information	
Word at al <sup>20</sup>	Depressive disorders	Coronary artery disease	Myocardian marcuon	
Wang et al <sup>20</sup>	Appressive disorders	Breast cancer	All-cause monality	- 1.20 (1.09-1.45)
Setin et el <sup>19</sup>	Anxiety disorders	Dieast cancer		- 1.10(1.01-1.34) 4.00(4.02.4.45)
Satin et al.º	Depressive disorders	Cancer Inflormatory bowol discoso	All-Cause monality	1.09 (1.02-1.15)
Schouldz et al	Depressive disorders	Inflammatory bowel disease	Symptom exacerbation	1.05 (1.01-1.10)
			0.17 0.41	1 2.45 6
			Equivalent	odds ratio (eOR)

Figure 3 Forest plot of prospective associations between mental disorders and clinical outcomes of physical diseases, stratified by class IV of evidence

and that between depressive disorders and all-cause mortality in patients with chronic kidney disease (RR=1.45, 95% CI: 1.22-1.73). There was either weak (class IV) or no evidence of association for all other primary and secondary outcomes (see Figure 3, Table 2 and supplementary information).

After removing the N>1,000 cases criterion in sensitivity analysis, there was no change in the level of class I, II and III evidence (see Table 2).

Three associations between depressive disorders and primary outcomes were upgraded from weak (class IV) to highly suggestive evidence (class II): those with all-cause mortality in patients with myocardial infarction, percutaneous coronary intervention, and coronary artery disease (see Table 2). The same upgrade was observed for the associations between depressive disorders and two secondary outcomes: major cardiac events in patients with heart failure, and atrial fibrillation recurrence in patients with coronary artery disease (see supplementary information).

One association between depressive disorders and a primary outcome was upgraded from weak (class IV) to suggestive evidence (class III): that with cardiovascular mortality in patients with myocardial infarction (see Table 2). The same upgrade was observed for seven associations between depressive disorders and secondary outcomes: poor functional outcome and stroke recurrence in patients with stroke; major cardiac events in patients with percutaneous coronary intervention; ventricular tachycardia/fibrillation in patients with coronary artery disease; coronary artery disease in patients with diabetes mellitus; negative treatment outcomes in patients with tuberculosis; and pain in patients with HIV infection (see supplementary information).

### Associations of mental and behavioural disorders due to psychoactive substance use with clinical outcomes of physical diseases

No association in this diagnostic block was supported by convincing evidence (class I), and there were no data on primary outcomes. The association between alcohol use disorder and de-

Study	Mental disorder	Physical disease	Outcome	¥	Effect size (95% CI)	N cases	p random effects	$I^2$ %	PI (95% CI)	SSE/ESB	ΓS	eOR	CE	CES
		Neurotic, stress-	related and somatofor	m dis	orders in patien	uts with can	diovascular	diseases						
Emdin et al <sup>70</sup>	Anxiety disorders	Cardiovascular diseases	Cardiovascular mortality	б	RR: 1.46 (1.17-1.82)	3,475	7.2e-04	0.00	0.35-6.04	No/No	No	1.46	Ш	III
Celano et al <sup>66</sup>	Anxiety disorders	Coronary artery disease	All-cause mortality	8	OR: 1.25 (0.96-1.64)	904	>0.05	43.85	0.7-2.26	No/Yes	No	1.25	NS	NS
Li et $al^{77}$	Anxiety disorders	Acute coronary syndrome	All-cause mortality	ŝ	RR: 1.03 (0.70-1.51)	961	>0.05	44.05	0.35-3.05	No/No	No	1.03	NS	NS
		Neurotic, stress	-related and somatofor	m dis	sorders in paties	nts with oth	er physical d	diseases						
Atlantis et al <sup>23</sup>	Anxiety disorders	Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease	All-cause mortality	б	RR: 1.11 (0.90-1.36)	32	>0.05	0.00	0.29-4.17	No/No	No	1.11	NS	NS
Wang et al <sup>20</sup>	Anxiety disorders	Breast cancer	All-cause mortality	б	HR: 1.07 (0.92-1.23)	1,049	>0.05	00.0	0.42-2.69	No/No	No	1.07	NS	NS
CE – class of ev hazard ratio, LS	idence, CES – class of – largest study with s	f evidence after sensitivity anal ignificant effect, NS – not signi	ysis (removing the N>1 ificant, OR – odds ratio,	,000 c .RR -	ases criterion), ( - risk ratio, PI – J	CI – confider prediction in	nce interval, e terval, SSE -	eOR – equ	iivalent odds rai dy effect	iio, ESB – exc	ess sign	ificance	bias, HI	_

Table 1 Level of evidence for the association of neurotic, stress-related and somatoform disorders with primary outcomes of physical diseases

Study	Mental disorder	Physical disease	Outcome	k	Effect size (95% CI)	N cases	p random effects	$\mathrm{I}^{2}\%$	PI (95% CI)	SSE/ESB	LS	eOR	CE	CES
		W	100d disorders in patie	ints wi	th cardiovascul	lar disease	S							
Sokoreli et al <sup>93</sup>	Depressive disorders	Heart failure	All-cause mortality	4	HR: 1.44 (1.26-1.65)	1,377	1.4e-07	0.00	1.07-1.94	No/No	Yes	1.44	I	Ι
Gathright et $al^{74}$	Depressive disorders	Heart failure	All-cause mortality	6	HR: 1.49 (1.05-2.10)	1,283	2.5e-02	79.85	0.46-4.79	Yes/Yes	No	1.49	IV	IV
Correll et al <sup>13</sup>	Bipolar disorder	Cardiovascular diseases	Cardiovascular mortality	9	RR: 1.65 (1.32-2.06)	8,923	9.0e-06	80.43	0.86-3.14	No/No	Yes	1.65	Ш	Ш
Meijer et al <sup>81</sup>	Depressive disorders	Myocardial infarction	Cardiovascular mortality	S	OR: 2.37 (1.47-3.82)	107	3.8e-04	13.58	0.78-7.22	No/No	No	2.37	IV	III
Meijer et al <sup>81</sup>	Depressive disorders	Myocardial infarction	All-cause mortality	15	OR: 2.24 (1.65-3.03)	725	2.0e-07	48.11	0.92-5.44	No/No	Yes	2.24	N	П
Song et al <sup>94</sup>	Depressive disorders	Percutaneous coronary intervention	All-cause mortality	9	RR: 1.76 (1.45-2.13)	265	1.1e-08	0.00	1.28-2.41	No/Yes	Yes	1.76	IV	П
Barth et al <sup>63</sup>	Depressive disorders	Coronary artery disease	All-cause mortality	9	HR: 1.73 (1.16-2.57)	1,097	7.1e-03	72.4	0.49-6.12	No/Yes	Yes	1.73	N	IV
Nicholson et al <sup>84</sup>	Depressive disorders	Coronary artery disease	All-cause mortality	10	RR: 1.59 (1.36-1.87)	412	1.3e-08	9.42	1.32-1.93	No/Yes	Yes	1.59	N	Π
Yuan et al <sup>99</sup>	Bipolar disorder	Stroke	Stroke mortality	2	HR: 1.69 (1.11-2.55)	1,816	3.2е-02	96.52	NA	NA/NA	Yes	1.69	IV	IV
Bartoli et al <sup>64</sup>	Depressive disorders	Stroke	All-cause mortality	S.	RR: 1.63 (1.10-2.41)	237	1.5e-02	58.87	0.49-5.39	No/No	No	1.63	IV	IV
Cai et al <sup>65</sup>	Depressive disorders	Stroke	All-cause mortality	~	HR: 1.55 (1.19-2.02)	24,022	1.0e-03	74.47	0.69-3.5	Yes/Yes	Yes	1.55	IV	IV
Wu & Kling <sup>97</sup>	Depressive disorders	Coronary artery disease	Cardiovascular mortality	Ŋ.	HR: 1.59 (1.08-2.35)	1,654	1.9e-02	82.00	0.41-6.23	Yes/Yes	Yes	1.59	IV	IV
Correll et al <sup>13</sup>	Depressive disorders	Cardiovascular diseases	Cardiovascular mortality	ŝ	OR: 1.44 (1.04-1.98)	8,319	2.6e-02	86.29	0.46-4.44	No/No	No	1.44	N	IV
Pan et al <sup>86</sup>	Depressive disorders	Stroke	Stroke mortality	4	HR: 1.41 (1.06-1.86)	5,007	1.7e-02	36.91	0.76-2.59	No/No	No	1.41	N	IV
Flaherty et al <sup>73</sup>	Depressive disorders	Coronary artery bypass graft	All-cause mortality	5	HR: 1.36 (1.05-1.77)	239	2.1e-02	0.00	NA	NA/NA	Yes	1.36	IV	IV
		-	Mood disorders in pat	ients u	vith chronic res <sub>l</sub>	piratory d	liseases							
Atlantis et al <sup>23</sup>	Depressive disorders	Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease	All-cause mortality	9	RR: 2.04 (0.87-4.77)	215	>0.05	73.8	0.12-34.24	No/Yes	Yes	2.04	NS	NS
Courtwright et al <sup>68</sup>	Depressive disorders	Lung transplant	Posttransplant mortality	2	HR: 1.01 (0.99-1.04)	218	>0.05	0.00	NA	NA/NA	No	1.01	NS	NS

Table 2 Level of evidence for the association of mood disorders with primary outcomes of physical diseases

	SB LS ¢OR		fes Yes 1.41
	I) SSE/E		Yes/A
	PI (95% C		1.28-1.55
	$\mathrm{I}^{2}\%$		12.85
ontinued)	p random effects	ses	1.0e-22
iseases (a	N cases	stem disea	1,834
of physical d	Effect size (95% CI)	h endocrine sy.	HR: 1.41
comes	k	ents wit	6
ders with primary out	Outcome	Mood disorders in pati	All-cause mortality
ociation of mood diso	Physical disease		Kidney failure
of evidence for the asso	Mental disorder		Depressive disorders
Table 2 Level	Study		Farrokhi et al <sup>72</sup>

Study	Mental disorder	Physical disease	Outcome	k	Effect size (95% CI)	N cases	p random effects	$\mathbf{I}^2\%$	PI (95% CI)	SSE/ESB	LS	eOR	CE	CES
		M	ood disorders in patien	nts with	t endocrine syst	em diseas	sə							
Farrokhi et al <sup>72</sup>	Depressive disorders	Kidney failure	All-cause mortality	6	HR: 1.41 (1.31-1.51)	1,834	1.0e-22	12.85	1.28-1.55	Yes/Yes	Yes	1.41	Π	Π
Hofmann et al <sup>24</sup>	Depressive disorders	Diabetes mellitus	All-cause mortality	٢	HR: 2.84 (2.00-4.03)	2,108	4.7e-09	88.81	0.88-9.15	No/No	Yes	1.93	II	п
Hofmann et al <sup>24</sup>	Depressive disorders	Diabetes mellitus	All-cause mortality	6	HR: 1.54 (1.09-2.18)	3,725	1.4e-02	85.18	0.48-4.99	No/Yes	No	1.54	IV	IV
Palmer et al <sup>85</sup>	Depressive disorders	Chronic kidney disease	All-cause mortality	13	HR: 1.45 (1.22-1.73)	2,066	2.0e-05	40.69	0.95-2.22	Yes/Yes	Yes	1.45	III	III
Farooqi et al <sup>71</sup>	Depressive disorders	Diabetes mellitus	Cardiovascular mortality	б	HR: 1.33 (1.04-1.71)	468	2.3e-02	14.51	0.27-6.66	No/No	No	1.33	IV	IV
van Dooren et al <sup>96</sup>	Depressive disorders	Diabetes mellitus	Cardiovascular mortality	2	HR: 1.60 (0.69-3.72)	169	>0.05	77.41	NA	NA/NA	No	1.60	NS	NS
			Mood disor	ders in	patients with c	ancer								
Satin et al <sup>19</sup>	Depressive disorders	Cancer	All-cause mortality	б	RR: 1.39 (1.02-1.89)	55	3.5e-02	0.00	0.19-10.08	No/No	No	1.39	IV	IV
Satin et al <sup>19</sup>	Depressive disorders	Cancer	All-cause mortality	×	HR: 1.09 (1.02-1.15)	1,490	5.2e-03	60.07	0.95-1.24	Yes/No	No	1.09	IV	IV
Wang et al <sup>20</sup>	Depressive disorders	Breast cancer	Breast cancer mortality	7	HR: 1.45 (1.04-2.01)	313	2.7e-02	0.00	NA	NA/NA	No	1.45	IV	IV
Wang et al <sup>20</sup>	Depressive disorders	Breast cancer	All-cause mortality	9	HR: 1.26 (1.09-1.45)	2,021	1.3e-03	0.00	1.03-1.53	No/No	No	1.26	IV	IV
Shi et al <sup>91</sup>	Depressive disorders	High-grade brain tumor	All-cause mortality	б	HR: 1.31 (0.86-1.99)	836	>0.05	0.00	0.09-19.69	No/No	No	1.31	NS	NS
Shi et al <sup>91</sup>	Depressive disorders	Glioma	Glioma mortality	ŝ	RR: 0.74 (0.54-1.02)	627	>0.05	48.61	0.27-2.07	No/No	No	0.74	NS	NS
			Mood disorders in <sub>1</sub>	patients	with other phy	vsical dise	sases							
Ruiz-Grosso et al <sup>87</sup>	Depressive disorders	Tuberculosis	Tuberculosis mortality	2	OR: 2.85 (1.52-5.36)	53	1.1e-03	0.00	NA	NA/NA	Yes	2.85	IV	IV
CE – class of evid hazard ratio, LS –	lence, CES – class of evic largest study with signifi	lence after sensitivity analysi icant effect, NA – not assess	is (removing the N>1,00 able, NS – not significar	00 cases at, OR -	criterion), CI – - odds ratio, RR	confidenc – risk rati	ce interval, e o, PI – predi	OR – equ ction inte	ivalent odds rat rval, SSE – sma	io, ESB – exc 11 study effect	ess sign t	ificance	bias, I	HR -

compensated liver cirrhosis in patients with hepatitis C (RR=3.15, 95% CI: 2.87-3.46) presented highly suggestive evidence (class II). After removing the N>1,000 cases criterion in sensitivity analysis, there was no change in the level of evidence (see supplementary information).

## Associations of schizophrenia with clinical outcomes of physical diseases

In this diagnostic block, one association presented convincing evidence (class I): that between schizophrenia and cardiovascular mortality in patients with cardiovascular diseases (RR=1.54, 95% CI: 1.36-1.75). One further association was supported by highly suggestive evidence (class II): that between schizophrenia and cancer mortality in patients with cancer (SMR=1.74, 95% CI: 1.41-2.15) (see Figure 2 and Table 3). Two associations presented weak evidence (class IV): those between schizophrenia and cancer mortality in patients with breast and lung cancer (see Figure 3 and Table 3).

After removing the N>1,000 cases criterion in sensitivity analysis, the association between schizophrenia and cancer mortality was upgraded from weak (class IV) to highly suggestive (class II) in patients with lung cancer, and from weak (class IV) to suggestive (class III) in patients with breast cancer. The level of evidence of the other two associations remained unchanged (see Table 3).

## Associations of organic, including symptomatic, mental disorders with clinical outcomes of physical diseases

No association in this diagnostic block was supported by convincing, highly suggestive, or suggestive evidence (classes I, II and III). There was weak evidence (class IV) of the association between both dementia and delirium with all-cause mortality in patients with hip fracture; of the association between dementia and all-cause mortality in patients with COVID-19 infection; and of the association between dementia and delirium in patients with stroke (see Table 3 and supplementary information).

After removing the N>1,000 cases criterion in sensitivity analysis, the association between dementia and delirium in patients with stroke was upgraded from weak (class IV) to convincing evidence (class I), while the association between delirium and allcause mortality in patients with hip fracture was upgraded from weak (class IV) to suggestive (class III) evidence (see Table 3 and supplementary information).

### Subgroup analyses

Not all planned subgroup analyses were possible, due to the lack of data (see supplementary information).

When restricting the analyses to standard diagnostic criteria (any version of DSM or ICD), the class II association between depressive disorders and all-cause mortality in patients with diabetes mellitus was downgraded to weak (class IV) evidence. When restricting the analyses to studies formulating a diagnosis of mental disorder before the diagnosis of physical disease (of course, clinical outcomes always followed the diagnosis of a mental disorder), the level of evidence of class I and II associations remained unchanged.

When restricting the analyses to follow-up duration >5 years, the class I association between schizophrenia and cardiovascular mortality in patients with cardiovascular diseases, and the class II associations between depressive disorders and all-cause mortality in patients with kidney failure and diabetes mellitus were downgraded to suggestive or weak evidence (class III and IV). When restricting the analyses to adjusted estimates, only the class I association between schizophrenia and cardiovascular mortality in patients with cardiovascular diseases was downgraded to weak (class IV) evidence.

When restricting the analyses to age of participants <50 years, the class I association between schizophrenia and cardiovascular mortality in cardiovascular diseases was downgraded to weak (class IV) evidence. When restricting the analyses to samples exposed to psychiatric treatments, all class I and II associations were downgraded to either suggestive (class III) or weak (class IV) evidence.

When restricting the analyses to studies including in their samples a majority of males, the class I association between schizophrenia and cardiovascular mortality in patients with cardiovascular diseases, and between depressive disorders and all-cause mortality in patients with heart failure, were downgraded to highly suggestive (class II) or weak (class IV) evidence. The class II associations between depressive disorders and all-cause mortality in patients with kidney failure and diabetes mellitus were downgraded to suggestive or weak evidence (class III or IV).

It is important to note that all the subgroup analyses were conducted in a very small number of primary studies (see supplementary information) and are, therefore, highly underpowered.

### Population attributable fraction (PAF) and generalized impact fraction (GIF)

The largest PAF was that for the association of alcohol use disorder with decompensated liver cirrhosis in patients with hepatitis C (30.56%, 95% CI: 27.67-33.49) (see Table 4). GIF analysis showed that alcohol use disorder should be reduced by 33% to prevent 10% of decompensated liver cirrhosis in hepatitis C (see also supplementary information).

The PAFs for the association of depressive disorders with allcause mortality in patients with diabetes mellitus and kidney failure were respectively 26.81% (95% CI: 16.61-37.67) and 11.59% (95% CI: 9.09-14.14). The PAF for the association of depressive disorders with cardiac events in patients with myocardial infarction was 13.68% (95% CI: 9.87-17.58) (see Table 4). GIF analyses showed that depressive disorders should be reduced by 37% and by 86% to prevent 10% of all-cause mortality in patients with diabetes mellitus and kidney failure, respectively, and be reduced by

Study	Mental disorder	Physical disease	Outcome	k	Effect size (95% CI)	N cases	p random effects	$\mathrm{I}^{2}\%$	PI (95% CI)	SSE/ESB	LS	eOR	CE	CES
			Schizophrenia in patien	tts with	cardiovascula	r diseases o	ind cancer							
Correll et al <sup>13</sup>	Schizophrenia	Cardiovascular diseases	Cardiovascular mortality	٢	RR: 1.54 (1.36-1.75)	9,097	2.2e-11	27.82	1.19-2.00	No/No	No	1.54	I	Ι
Zhuo et al <sup>101</sup>	Schizophrenia	Cancer	Cancer mortality	б	SMR: 1.74 (1.41-2.15)	6,145	2.9e-07	66.53	0.17-17.56	No/No	Yes	1.72	П	II
Ni et al <sup>83</sup>	Schizophrenia	Breast cancer	Breast cancer mortality	2	RR: 2.54 (1.56-4.14)	175	1.7e-04	0.00	NA	NA/NA	Yes	2.54	IV	Ш
Ni et al <sup>83</sup>	Schizophrenia	Lung cancer	Lung cancer mortality	2	RR: 2.24 (1.67-3.01)	192	9.0e-08	0.00	NA	NA/NA	Yes	2.24	IV	II
		Organic, includi	ng symptomatic, mental di	sorders	in patients wi	th infection	is and musci	uloskeleta	l system disea:	ses				
Liu et al <sup>79</sup>	Dementia	Hip fracture	All-cause mortality	2	HR: 3.72 (1.6-8.67)	384	2.3e-03	72.52	NA	NA/NA	Yes	3.72	IV	IV
Liu et al <sup>79</sup>	Delirium	Hip fracture	All-cause mortality	9	HR: 2.21 (1.49-3.27)	638	7.5e-05	64.54	0.65-7.51	No/No	Yes	2.21	IV	Ш
Hariyanto et al <sup>76</sup>	Dementia	COVID-19	All-cause mortality	2	RR: 2.24 (1.26-3.98)	4,417	5.8e-03	89.51	NA	NA/NA	Yes	2.24	IV	IV
Liu et al <sup>26</sup>	Dementia	COVID-19	All-cause mortality	2	OR: 3.27 (0.34-31.43)	148	>0.05	47.02	NA	NA/NA	Yes	3.27	NS	NS
CE – class of evider ratio, LS – largest st	nce, CES – class of ev udy with significant e	vidence after sensitivit effect, NA – not asses	y analysis (removing the N> sable, NS – not significant, C	1,000 c R – ode	ises criterion), C Is ratio, RR – ris	U – confide sk ratio, PI -	nce interval, e	cOR – equ nterval, SI	ivalent odds rat AR – standardiz	io, ESB – exce ted mortality r	ess signif atio, SS	icance bia E – small	ts, HR – study eff	hazard

Table 3 Level of evidence for the association of schizophrenia and organic, including symptomatic, mental disorders with primary outcomes of physical diseases

				Prevalence of mental	
Mental disorder	Physical disease	Outcome	Risk ratio (95% CI)	disorder in physical disease (95% CI)	PAF (95% CI)
Depressive disorders	Heart failure	All-cause mortality	1.44 (1.26-1.65)	17.72% (16.89-18.56)	7.25% (4.38-10.34)
Schizophrenia	Cardiovascular diseases	Cardiovascular mortality	1.54 (1.36-1.75)	25.17% (25.08-25.30)	11.99% (8.29-15.84)
Depressive disorders	Diabetes mellitus	Dementia	2.11 (1.77-2.52)	6.66% (6.60-6.71)	6.89% (4.87-9.19)
Depressive disorders	Kidney failure	All-cause mortality	1.41 (1.31-1.51)	32.11% (31.30-32.93)	11.59% (9.09-14.14)
Depressive disorders	Diabetes mellitus	All-cause mortality	2.84 (2.00-4.03)	19.91% (19.07-20.79)	26.81% (16.61-37.67)
Alcohol use disorder	Hepatitis C	Decompensated liver cirrhosis	3.15 (2.87-3.46)	20.50% (20.30-20.70)	30.56% (27.67-33.49)
Depressive disorders	Myocardial infarction	Major cardiac events	1.52 (1.36-1.70)	30.58% (29.62-31.56)	13.68% (9.87-17.58)
Schizophrenia	Cancer	Cancer mortality	1.74 (1.41-2.14)	11.05% (10.75-11.36)	7.53% (4.31-11.21)
Bipolar disorder	Cardiovascular diseases	Cardiovascular mortality	1.65 (1.32-2.06)	3.41% (3.81-4.10)	2.17% (1.16-3.76)
Anxiety disorders	Cardiovascular diseases	Cardiovascular mortality	1.46 (1.17-1.82)	5.50% (5.41-5.64)	2.47% (0.93-4.33)
Depressive disorders	Chronic kidney disease	All-cause mortality	1.45 (1.22-1.73)	10.50% (10.01-10.96)	4.53% (2.24-7.12)

Table 4 Meta-analytical population attributable fraction (PAF) for the associations supported by the largest evidence (classes I, II and III)

73% to prevent 10% of major cardiac events in patients with myocardial infarction (see Figure 4 and supplementary information).

The PAF of the association of schizophrenia with cardiovascular mortality in patients with cardiovascular diseases was 11.99% (95% CI: 8.29-15.84) (see Table 4). GIF analysis showed that schizophrenia prevalence should be reduced by 83% to prevent 10% of cardiovascular mortality in patients with cardiovascular diseases (see supplementary information).

The PAFs for other class I-III associations are reported in Table 4. They were 7.53% (95% CI: 4.31-11.21) for the association between schizophrenia and cancer mortality in patients with cancer; 7.25% (95% CI: 4.38-10.34) for the association between depressive disorders and all-cause mortality in patients with heart failure; 4.53% (95% CI: 2.24-7.12) for the association between depressive disorders and all-cause mortality in patients with chronic kidney disease; 2.47% (95% CI: 0.93-4.33) for the association between anxiety disorders and cardiovascular mortality in patients with cardiovascular diseases; and 2.17% (95% CI: 1.16-3.76) for the association between bipolar disorder and cardiovascular mortality in patients with cardiovascular diseases.

### DISCUSSION

In this umbrella review, we evaluated 47 systematic reviews with meta-analysis, including 251 non-overlapping primary studies, testing 74 prospective associations between mental disorders and 43 primary and 31 secondary clinical outcomes of physical diseases. This is the first attempt to comprehensively evaluate the impact of the entire spectrum of mental disorders on the clinical outcomes of physical diseases, using established grading criteria that control for several biases. This is also the first study to employ *metaumbrella*, a comprehensive suite of statistical packages developed for conducting umbrella reviews<sup>50,62</sup>. We also estimated for the first time the meta-umbrella preventive capacity (meta-analytic PAFs) of the associations supported by class I-III evidence to establish reliable, evidence-based and actionable targets that can be prioritized in clinical practice.

An additional strength of this work is the in-depth screening of primary studies included in each systematic review to selectively include only data reflecting prospective associations. This choice mitigates the reverse causality bias and ensures the temporality of the examined associations, where exposures (mental disorders) always preceded the event investigated (clinical outcomes of physical diseases). Furthermore, we also screened primary studies to include only those using robust diagnostic or research criteria, or validated instruments with specific cut-offs mapped to discrete categories of mental disorders. This approach overcomes the significant noise derived from studies that mistake continuous symptoms or self-reported subjective "experiences" for categorical mental disorders, which characterizes the existing transdiagnostic literature<sup>103,104</sup>. Our refined evidence synthesis method resulted in more than two-thirds (68%) of the included systematic reviews having a low risk of bias and nearly 80% of the selected



Reduction in the prevalence of depressive disorders

Figure 4 Meta-analytic generalized impact fraction (GIF) of depressive disorders for all-cause mortality and major cardiac events in several physical diseases

primary studies scoring high on quality assessments.

Mood disorders (especially depressive disorders) emerged as credible risk factors for adverse clinical outcomes in cardiovascular diseases, as most associations in this class were supported by the largest evidence (classes I, II or III). The most robust association (class I) was that between depressive disorders and all-cause mortality among patients with heart failure, which remained at the same level of evidence after conducting subgroup analyses accounting for confounders. Other highly suggestive/suggestive associations were those between depressive disorders and the risk of major cardiac events in patients with myocardial infarction (class II), and between bipolar disorder and the risk of cardiovascular mortality in patients with cardiovascular disease (class III).

Overall, the association between depressive disorders and cardiovascular diseases is a consolidated area of research across psychiatry and somatic medicine<sup>7,105-108</sup>, although the underlying mechanisms are not fully understood<sup>107</sup>. The pathophysiology of these conditions may share common mechanisms, including behavioral, biological and medication-related ones<sup>108-112</sup>, forming an interdependent network<sup>113</sup>.

Behavioral mechanisms may include unhealthy habits (smoking, excessive alcohol consumption, physical inactivity, unhealthy diet, medication non-adherence) that accelerate pathophysiological processes, such as atherosclerosis, leading to poor health outcomes and increased mortality<sup>109,110,112-114</sup>.

Biological mechanisms may include alterations in the autonomic nervous system, plasminogen activator inhibitor-1 and fibrinogen levels, endothelial function, and neurohormonal factors, as well as diminished heart rate variability, and genetic alterations of the serotonin transporter<sup>109,110,112,113,114</sup>. Molecular inflammatory mechanisms involving interleukins (IL-6 and IL-1 $\beta$ ) and C-reactive protein, as well as an oxidative stress imbalance, may also point to common pathways between mood and cardiovascular condictions<sup>109,115-118</sup>.

Mechanisms associated with treatment (for example, antidepressants use) may include cardiotoxicity<sup>109,110,113,114</sup>, or the alteration of platelet activation<sup>111</sup> leading to an increased incidence of major cardiac events and sudden death<sup>109-111,113,114</sup>. However, the latter is unlikely a strong mechanism, especially when using selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors, which reduce platelet aggregation<sup>119,120</sup>.

We also found highly suggestive (class II) evidence that depressive disorders increase all-cause mortality risk in patients with diabetes mellitus and kidney failure. The increased mortality in diabetes mellitus is due to insulin resistance and metabolic factors (e.g., abdominal obesity and dyslipidemia). These factors are aggravated by depressive disorders, which are independently associated with insulin resistance<sup>121</sup> and metabolic syndrome (elevated adipose tissue and dyslipidemia<sup>122,123</sup>). The increased mortality in depressed patients with kidney failure may be due to suboptimal compliance with complex medication regimens<sup>123-125</sup>.

Highly suggestive (class II) evidence was similarly found for the association between depressive disorders and an increased risk of dementia in patients with diabetes mellitus<sup>67</sup>. Both depressive disorders and diabetes mellitus have been shown to increase the incidence of dementia individually and synergistically<sup>126</sup>, with the metabolic-brain axis as a key mediator connecting these conditions<sup>126</sup>. Depressive disorders are associated with micro/macro vascular alterations<sup>127,128</sup>, insulin resistance<sup>121</sup> and neuroinflammation<sup>129</sup>; these factors may increase the risk of dementia in this patient population<sup>130,131</sup>. Stress and psychosocial determinants of health may also be key mediators in how these systems interact<sup>126</sup>.

These are clinically highly relevant findings, as depression prevention and/or treatment has great potential to improve overall health and outcomes in common physical diseases that are associated with severe biopsychosocial and societal burden (e.g., dementia is a rising problem in ageing societies<sup>132</sup>) and premature mortality. Our PAF analysis directly informs the prioritization of these approaches and associated resources on the basis of evidence-based potential preventive gains. For example, this study provides the first robust meta-umbrella evidence showing that preventing depressive disorders could reduce up to one-third of mortality rates across various physical conditions.

Screening for depression in patients with cardiovascular diseases is recommended by the US Preventive Services Task Force and the American Heart Association<sup>133,134</sup>. Furthermore, independent meta-analyses showed that psychotherapy/psychoeducation can have a preventive effect by reducing the severity of symptoms before the onset of depressive disorders<sup>135-137</sup>. Randomized controlled trials demonstrated that collaborative care, which includes patient preferences, cognitive intervention and/ or lifestyle advice, drug treatment management, and relapse prevention<sup>138</sup>, or physical exercise<sup>139,140</sup>, can specifically reduce depression in patients with cardiovascular diseases or diabetes, including low- and middle-income countries<sup>141,142</sup>. These interventions could, at the same time, have an impact on depressive disorders and improve self-management of physical diseases in patients with mental and physical multimorbidity<sup>143</sup>. Our GIF analysis confirms these benefits; the reduction of mortality rates remains clinically relevant even if preventive interventions are only partially effective. Taken together, these findings call for a new generation of translational research validating preventive approaches for depressive disorders in physical conditions.

The association between schizophrenia and increased cardiovascular and cancer mortality in patients with these physical diseases was also supported by convincing or highly suggestive evidence (class I and II, respectively). The higher mortality risk in schizophrenia compared to the general population is substantial and particularly marked during the early stages of the disorder<sup>144</sup>. The increased risk of cardiovascular and cancer mortality may be due to suboptimal cardiovascular<sup>145,146</sup> and cancer screening<sup>147</sup> in patients with schizophrenia, coupled with high cigarette smoking<sup>145</sup>, frequent metabolic syndrome (obesity, hypertension, diabetes, hyperlipidemia)<sup>148-152</sup>, physical inactivity, drug and alcohol use, and poor adherence to medication<sup>153-155</sup>.

Although antipsychotics can lead to adverse cardiometabolic effects that are a risk factor for cardiovascular mortality<sup>156</sup>, a recent meta-analysis showed that all-cause mortality risk at the population level is substantially reduced with antipsychotic use versus no antipsychotic use  $(RR=0.71)^{144}$ . The reason for this paradoxical relationship can be found in a nationwide database within-subject analysis, where ongoing antipsychotic treatment was associated with higher adherence to statins, antihypertensive and antidiabetic medications<sup>157</sup>. Thus, greater psychiatric stability via antipsychotic treatment improves not only healthy lifestyle behaviors but also adherence to medications for secondary physical illness prevention<sup>144</sup>.

Furthermore, our PAF analysis suggests that preventing psychosis in young people at clinical high risk can produce physical health benefits in terms of reduced cardiovascular and cancer mortality, in addition to improved mental health outcomes<sup>158-165</sup> (indicated prevention).

Highly suggestive evidence (class II) was also found for the association of alcohol use disorder with decompensated liver cirrhosis in patients infected with hepatitis C virus. Indeed, alcohol use disorder leads to alterations in cytokine production, lipopoly-saccharide-TLR4 signalling, and reactive oxygen species<sup>166</sup>, factors that increase hepatotoxicity<sup>167,168</sup>. Patients with alcohol use disorder are also frequently medically ineligible for hepatitis C treatment<sup>169</sup>.

Our PAF analysis demonstrates that about one-third of decompensated liver cirrhosis in patients with hepatitis C could be averted by preventing alcohol use disorder (the largest PAF in our study). Thus, alcohol use disorder should be identified and managed as much as possible to improve psychiatric as well as physical health outcomes. Screening for unhealthy alcohol use in primary care settings in adults, including pregnant women, and providing brief behavioral counselling interventions is an evidence-based approach to reducing unhealthy alcohol use, as recommended by the US Preventive Services Task Force<sup>170</sup>.

There are some limitations to this study. First, while we avoided the limitations of retrospective or case-control study designs by selecting only prospective systematic reviews with meta-analysis and prospective primary studies, the observed associations do not represent pathophysiological causality. For example, although we preferably focused on adjusted estimates, we could not specifically address the role of single confounders, such as genetic effects, body mass index or metabolic risk factors, which may at least partially account for the observed associations. Second, there were few relevant systematic reviews with meta-analysis in child and adolescent populations, and for mental disorders other than depressive disorders. For example, we did not find any relevant meta-analysis that considered patients with anorexia nervosa or personality disorders. Third, the results of the subgroup analyses should be viewed with caution, due to the granularity of the reported data and the very limited statistical power. Finally, our PAF findings are specific to the populations affected with physical diseases and cannot be applied to the general population.

Acknowledging these caveats, our study has several implications. We demonstrated at a meta-umbrella review level that mental disorders significantly impair the health and life expectancy of individuals with physical diseases, and quantified for the first time the associated preventive capacity. Our findings may be particularly relevant for informing the prioritization of preventive approaches for physical diseases via improved detection and management of mental disorders, with currently the best evidence and actionable targets for alcohol use disorders, depression and schizophrenia.

These approaches are likely to be particularly relevant for young people, given the early age at onset of most mental disorders<sup>40,171</sup>. Prevention for youth is currently driven by initiatives siloed in physical diseases, such as cancer and obesity<sup>143,165</sup>. However, preventing the onset of mental disorders can become a tantalizing strategy for reducing at the same time the risk of developing phy-

sical diseases<sup>143</sup>. Indeed, the cost and risk associated with preventive approaches (e.g., ethical concerns<sup>172</sup>) can be offset by concurrently reducing the burden of both psychiatric disorders and physical diseases<sup>165,173</sup>. Integrating early detection and prevention of mental health and physical conditions may be particularly costeffective in resource-constrained settings<sup>142</sup>.

This strategy would require innovative integrated or, at least, co-located clinical services for emerging mental and physical conditions, overcoming the limited preventive capacity of current health care services<sup>165</sup>. Indeed, youth-friendly mental and physical health care services are being developed and tested world-wide<sup>174-177</sup>, and promise to achieve the much-needed cross-disciplinary fertilization of expertise which is essential to reduce the Cartesian dichotomy between mental and physical knowledge, education and research.

In conclusion, this umbrella review demonstrates that mental disorders increase the risk of several poor clinical outcomes in patients with physical diseases. Prevention targeting mental disorders – particularly alcohol use disorders, depressive disorders, and schizophrenia – can reduce the incidence of adverse clinical outcomes in physical diseases. These findings can inform clinical practice and trans-speciality preventive approaches cutting across psychiatric and somatic medicine.

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