



Melancholia and its historical investigation from the perspective of the physicians of the Islamic period (4-7 A.H.)

Mohammad Reza Rajabnejad^a, Metanat Seyfaie^{b*}

^aHistory of Medical Sciences Group, Research Institute for Islamic & Complementary Medicine, School of Persian Medicine, Iran University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Iran

^bDepartment of History of Medical Sciences, School of Health and Religion, Qom University of Medical Sciences, Qom, Iran

Abstract:

Melancholia was introduced by physicians of the Islamic civilization period (4-7 A.H.) as a brain disorder in which thoughts and opinions change from their natural path towards corruption and fear. This research was a library study, investigating and classifying the definition, types, causes and symptoms of all types of melancholia based on the description of this disease in the books of physicians who had a special chapter on the subject of melancholia during 4th to 7th A.H.. Books authored by physicians including Rhazes, Kashkari, Akhawyni Bokhari, Qumri, Haly Abbas, Zahrawi, Avicenna, Jurjani, Baghdadi and Ibn al-Nafis as well as Noor Comprehensive Traditional Medicine Software and Irandoc, SID, MagIran, Google Scholar, Scopus databases were used to conduct this research. According to the physicians of this period, melancholia disorder is caused by the increase of normal or abnormal black bile in the brain or other body organs. Accordingly, these physicians have divided melancholia into types of cerebral melancholia and shared melancholia, and have described causes and symptoms for each type.

Keywords: Depressive disorder, History of Medicine, Persian Medicine

Corresponding Author: m.seyfaie1@gmail.com