



Figure 1
Demographic Characteristics, Family and Psychiatric History. Difference in age between primary and secondary: (#) not statistically significant difference; (##): $\chi^2 = 7.51$, $df = 26$, $p > 0.05$. Difference in gender in the primaries: (*) χ^2 alpha = 0.005 $df = 1$ and (§) $\chi^2 = 4.67$, $df = 1$, $p > 0.05$. Difference in gender in the secondaries: (**) χ^2 alpha = 0.05 $df = 1$ and (§§) $\chi^2 = 4.67$, $df = 1$, $p > 0.05$. Difference in family history between primaries and secondaries: (α) $\chi^2 = 0.84$, $df = 1$, $p = 0.359$. Difference in past psychiatric history between primaries and secondaries: (¶) $\chi^2 = 1.67$, $df = 1$, $p = 0.196$. NS = Not stated.

(100%) of secondaries (14 men and 28 women). The difference between men and women in the primaries and secondaries was not statistically significant ($p > 0.05$). In the years 1942–1993, gender was identified in all primaries and secondaries ($N = 61$, 100%). Primaries consisted of 18 men and 43 women, and secondaries of 23 men and 38 women. Whilst within the group of secondaries gender differences were not statistically significant ($p = 0.05$), authors recorded an excess of women in the primaries which reached statistical significance ($p = 0.005$). 3) *Family History*: In the years 1993–2005, family psychiatric history was reported in only 10 (23.8%) of primaries and 12 (28.6%) of secondaries. The difference between the two groups did not reach statistical significance ($p = 0.359$). Only the family history of secondaries was considered in the years 1942–1993 and was recorded in 33 (54.1%) of the subjects. 4) *Psychiatric History*: Evidence of psychiatric history preceding the appearance of 'Folie à Deux' was reported in 10 primaries (23.8%) and 5 secondaries (11.9%). The difference between primary and secondaries was not statistically significant ($p = 0.196$). This information was not elicited in the years 1942–1993.

The nature of the relationship (Table 2)

In the years 1993–2005 the type of relationship between primaries and secondaries was always well described ($N = 42$, 100%). The majority of the relationships were within the nuclear family (97.6%). The remainder occurred within the context of friendships (2.4%) between genetically unrelated individuals. The largest proportion was constituted by married or common-law couples (52.4%) with a similar distribution between husband and wife. The second largest group (23.8%) was between sisters (50% twins). Results emerging from 1942–1993 review also showed an increased susceptibility of the condition within the family. However, the dyad parent-child contributed more significantly ($N = 19$, 31.1%). These authors specified that offspring were secondaries in 73.7% of cases highlighting a possible increased susceptibility in child inductees. Siblings (sisters) and common law couples then followed ($N = 18$, 29.5%).

Risk factors, duration of the association, and exposure in the dyad (Table 3)

Social isolation has often been described as a major risk factor for the development of 'Folie à Deux'. Social isolation was reported in 64.3% ($N = 27$) of the cases identi-