

THE RELATION BETWEEN CHILDHOOD TRAUMA HISTORY AND PSYCHOTIC SYMPTOMS IN PATIENTS WITH FIRST EPISODE PSYCHOSIS

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Objective: To research the relation between childhood trauma on psychopathology in 60 patients with first-episode psychosis.

Method: Psychopathology was assessed by Scale for the Assessment of Positive Symptoms (SAPS), Scale for the Assessment of Negative Symptoms (SANS) and Brief Psychiatric Research Scale (BPRS), at first admission. Childhood trauma was assessed by Childhood Trauma Questionnaire (CTQ) after discharge. CTQ evaluates emotional, physical and sexual abuse and physical and emotional neglect during childhood.

Results: We found significant difference on positive symptoms with history of childhood trauma. Childhood physical abuse (CPA) score correlated with SAPS conceptual disorganization score ($p=0.023$). Childhood emotional neglect (CEN) score correlated with SAPS delusions ($p=0.006$) and hallucination ($p=0.003$) of the patients score respectively. Also histories of childhood sexual abuse (CSA) was found in correlation with SAPS delusions ($p=0.015$) and hallucination ($p=0.002$) of the patients respectively. There was gender difference between patients, the effect of sexual abuse in women was stronger than men. BPRS – General Psychopathology Scale items somatic concern ($p=0.029$), anxiety ($p=0.042$), guilty ($p=0.021$) and depression ($p=0.019$) was found to be related with CPA. Although unusual thought content ($p=0.042$) and poor attention ($p=0.022$) score was also found to be related with CEN.

Conclusion: Our findings suggest that childhood trauma may alter the presentation of psychosis in first admission. There is a high prevalence on psychotic symptoms of childhood trauma in patients with first-episode psychosis. Childhood trauma was found associated with positive but with not negative symptoms.

Key Words: First episode psychosis, Childhood Trauma, Psychopathology, Positive Symptoms, Negative Symptoms.