

Negative symptoms of schizophrenia : Clinical, biochemical, radiological and therapeutic study

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This work aimed to provide a clue to the pathophysiology and cause of negative symptom schizophrenia by studying some of its radiological and biochemical changes. The negative symptom schizophrenics had a high SANS score particularly in those with previous positive period of more than 5 years followed by pure negative subgroup and least in those with previous positive period less than 2 years. None of the sociodemographic parameter variables showed associations with ventricular abnormalities. There was a significant frontal lobe atrophy in the group with previous positive period below 2 years. There was a highly significant increase in platelet monoamine oxidase activity in the unmedicated male negative schizophrenics and the reverse in the unmedicated positive patients. Fluspirilene produced the highest level of improvement in patients with pure negative symptoms. Those of mixed negative and positive symptoms differed in their response to the drug dependent on presence or absence of bizarre. The drug seemed without effect on negative schizophrenics with positive symptoms.