

Positive and negative symptoms in schizophrenia

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100 schizophrenics were chosen from the Psychiatric Clinic of Alexandria University Hospital in a period of 6 months (January to June 1991). They were selected according to DSM-III-R criteria. 50 patients have had symptoms between 6 - 12 months (subchronic) and the other 50 patients have had symptoms more than 2 years (chronic). Clinical and psychometric study showed negative schizophrenic symptoms in 16% of cases, while positive symptoms were found in 36% and mixed cases in 48%. 50 subchronic schizophrenics comprised 9% negative, 16% positive and 25% mixed, while the other 50 chronics were 7% negative, 20% positive and 23% (of the total) were mixed. Positive symptoms of the total sample were hallucinations in 67%, delusions in 85%, positive thought disorders in 38%, behavioral disorders (aggressive, agitated, ritualistic and stereotyped behavior) in 67%. Negative symptoms included affective flattening in 67% of cases, alogia in 52%, avolition-apathy in 37%, anhedonia in 42% and attention impairment in 62%.