

Smooth pursuit eye movement dysfunction in chronic schizophrenics and their first degree relatives

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This study was done on 15 medicated chronic schizophrenics, 12 of their first degree relatives and 12 normal subjects. Smooth pursuit eye movements (SPEM) study was the target of this work. The results showed that schizophrenics definitely do poorly on this task. Incidence was around 90% on most of SPEM measurement parameters. First degree relatives of schizophrenics showed nearly similar performance to the sample of normal people. SPEM dysfunction in schizophrenics was not correlated to the age of patient, age of onset of illness, duration of illness, nor to the degree of neuropsychological impairment. Various possibilities of the interpretation of SPEM dysfunction in schizophrenia was discussed and a conclusion of the selective attention impairment, most probably behind this dysfunction, was reached.