

Thought processes in paranoid and non-paranoid schizophrenia

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The distinction between paranoid and non-paranoid schizophrenia may serve as a basis for better understanding of the aetiology of the disorder. There are several indicators that the distinction is clinically valid. This study dealt with the possible differences between the two groups in terms of abstraction ability, and intellectual performance. Following the Tsuang-Winokur criteria, 15 paranoid schizophrenic subjects, 15 non-paranoid schizophrenics and 20 age and education matched controls were compared on the Egyptian Colloquial Proverb Test (CPT) and the Wechsler Adult Intelligence Scale (WAIS). Non-paranoid schizophrenics performed poorly on the majority of dimensions of both tests. Paranoid schizophrenic subjects were less impaired, but performed worse than controls. The results indicated a continuum of general dysfunction in abstraction and intellectual performance rather than discrete abnormalities that distinguish these two types of schizophrenia and normal case. Therefore, they support a process approach to conceptualizing schizophrenia, in which the paranoid type is regarded as a more integrated form of the same disorder rather than a distinct diagnostic entity.