

**Assessment of the negative symptoms in a sample of Egyptian schizophrenic patients
: Association with poor premorbid social functioning and cognitive impairment**

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The objective of this work was the study of the relationship between premorbid functioning, some clinical and treatment variables and cognitive functions of the schizophrenic patients and the severity of their negative symptoms. To achieve this objective, 69 Egyptian schizophrenic patients were included in this study. They were assessed by PSAS, WAIS, SANS, BPRS and full psychiatric examination. The results of the study revealed that the severity of the negative symptoms was not correlated with the duration of illness, the duration of neuroleptic medication, the duration of hospitalization, the number of hospital admissions or the number of ECT sessions. It was correlated with the severity of premorbid social and scholastic maladjustment, cognitive deterioration and age of onset of schizophrenic illness. The study showed that schizophrenia, especially its fundamental negative symptoms, may be a neurodevelopment disorder that manifests itself during childhood and early adolescence by maladjustment and during the active phase of illness by negative symptoms and cognitive deterioration.