

Descriptive evaluation of the schizophrenic symptomatological changes in schizophrenic patients from the sixties to the nineties

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The aim of this work was to study the difference between the symptoms of schizophrenia with which cases presented in the sixties and those with which cases presented in the nineties. One hundred schizophrenic patients allocated into two groups according to the duration of illness and according to DSM IV criteria were included in this study. Group I included 50 schizophrenic patients having the first attack of schizophrenic symptoms in the sixties ; while group II included 50 schizophrenic patients having the first attack of schizophrenic symptoms in the nineties. A brief psychiatric rating scale (BPRS) was applied for all patients. The results showed that catatonic schizophrenia decreased in incidence significantly from the sixties to the nineties, while paranoid schizophrenia increased. The lack of volition and anhedonia were the most common, prominent and persistent manifestations of schizophrenia in the sixties and up to the nineties. Flat, blunted or inappropriate affect was common and persistent in the sixties and nineties ; but in spite of that, there was a slight increase in the percentage of depressed and anxious schizophrenic patients in the nineties. Auditory hallucinations and delusion of persecution persisted as the most common types of hallucinations and delusion among schizophrenics from the sixties to the nineties. Religious delusions decreased from sixties to nineties. The content of hallucinations and delusions changed widely from the sixties to the nineties. Some types of formal thought disorder showed apparent change ; for example, neologism and echolalia were absent in the nineties. Some manifestations of behavioral disturbance have decreased or became absent in the nineties. A significant improvement of most of items and of the total score of the BPRS can be noticed in the nineties.