

Affective symptoms in schizophrenia

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This study aimed to evaluate the prevalence of affective symptoms in acute and chronic schizophrenia and whether those cases with manifest affective symptoms can be delineated from other types of schizophrenia or not. Twenty-seven untreated first-illness acute schizophrenic patients (duration more than 6 months), 51 chronic schizophrenic patients (duration more than 2 years) maintained on medication, 41 chronic schizophrenic patients (duration more than 2 years) without medication according to ICD 9 criteria and 40 normal controls were included in this study to evaluate clinically and objectively the prevalence of affective symptoms in normal population. Depression was assessed clinically and by Hamilton rating scale to evaluate the prevalence and intensity of objective affective symptom. The results showed a high prevalence of depressive symptoms in untreated acute schizophrenic patients (62.9%) compared with chronic schizophrenic patients, whether they were on treatment or not (27.4% and 36.5%, respectively).