

Prodromal phase of relapse in schizophrenia

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The aim of this research was to clinically study the prodromal period of relapse in schizophrenia, and to show its importance and implications. The studied subjects included 100 outpatients with DSM-III-R schizophrenia (36 patients with paranoid schizophrenia and 64 patients with non-paranoid schizophrenia) and their close family informants.

The sociodemographic and clinical characteristics of patients were gathered through a semi-structured interview with the patient and his/her family member. A questionnaire for prodromal manifestations was applied by directly interviewing each patient as well as his/her close family informant.

The results showed that 53% of schizophrenic patients recognized prodromes of the last relapse, while 69% of their corresponding family members recognized these prodromes. The duration of the prodromal phase in the total sample was about 25 days.

The prodromal symptoms showed a high degree of intra-individual consistency, but inter-individual variation.