

# **A study of symptom complexes/syndromes in an out-patient sample of patients with schizophrenia**

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Sixty-five patients with a diagnosis of schizophrenia according to DSM-IV had been assessed using BPRS and Andreasen's SANS and SAPS were included in this study. The results showed that affective syndrome showed high loadings on the following symptoms : Anxiety, depressive mood, tension, somatic concern, distractible speech, guilt feelings and hostility. The high factor scores on affective behavior syndrome in this study of patients with schizophrenia living in the community suggests an alternative explanation, despite the obvious benefits.

Living in the community may have its price in terms of the distressing effects of affective symptoms which are, in turn, known to be associated with an increased risk of suicide. At the same time, attention impairment loads mainly on negative factor.

The study concluded that a principal components analysis of individual symptom scores of the 65 patients yielded a four-dimensional structure of negative, positive, disorganized and affective symptoms. The concepts underlying these results and their clinical implications were discussed.