

Characteristics of thought disorder in schizophrenia : A comparative study

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The Egyptian Journal of Psychiatry (Print)

1987 v10

This study aimed to test the hypothesis suggesting that thought disorder is not unique to schizophrenia. Twenty schizophrenic patients diagnosed according to DMP-I, ten patients with personality disorder and ten normal subjects were included in the present study. All were subjected to a battery of clinical tools and psychometric tests : The progressive matrices, a word association test, a free verbalization interview, a word meaning test, the concept formation test and a proverb test (Rakhawy's proverb test). Whereas, the progressive matrices, the word association and the concept formation tests did not show significant differences.

The proverb test, the free verbalization interview and word meaning test documented the presence of significant differences between the three populations. 62.8% of schizophrenic patients were less capable of making common association to words, and failure of concept formation.

Schizophrenic patients had a high grade of loose association evident more in free speech. 89.6% of schizophrenics showed more impairment than normal in conceptualizing stimulus words.