

## **A study of the histamine intradermal test in the Egyptian schizophrenic patients**

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This study aimed to discover the difference between intradermal histamine test in schizophrenic patients and normal individuals, and if it can differentiate between Schneider +ve and Schneider -ve patients, also whether this test can be used as a diagnostic tool or not.

The sample consisted of 30 schizophrenic patients diagnosed according to The Egyptian Diagnostic Manual of Psychiatry divided into two subgroups; namely, Schneider +ve and Schneider -ve and 15 controls were selected from the relatives of the patients and they were matched for age, sex and other demographic variables. Both were drug free at least three weeks before testing. Intradermal histamine injections were done to both groups and the size of skin wheal that arises 15 minutes after the intradermal injection of 0.05 ml of 1: 1000 histamine in normal saline was measured by a special template and stencil. The injections were repeated after four weeks and after eight weeks of therapy with phenothiazine and/or ECT.

The results showed that the intradermal histamine test could significantly differentiate between normal control and patients, as the patients showed smaller wheals. But, it failed to differentiate between Schneider +ve and Schneider -ve schizophrenic patients.