

Schneiderian first rank symptoms in schizophrenic versus non-schizophrenic psychosis

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This study aimed to investigate the discriminative value of schizophrenia FRSs and their ability to differentiate

between a group of Egyptian schizophrenic and non-schizophrenic psychosis focusing on the possible relative significance of individual symptoms.

One hundred psychotic inpatients (from the psychiatric department of Mansoura University Hospitals) were selected for this study, where they were followed up twice weekly. After the control of symptoms, patients were re-interviewed and the final diagnosis was given, after which patients were discharged and followed up in the outpatient clinic once every two weeks for six months from the time of onset (the temporal criteria in DSM IV). At the end of the six months, another assessment using SANS and SAPS was done to ensure the presence or absence of the symptoms. Particular items corresponding to schizophrenia first rank symptoms were selected from SAPS and Landmark's questionnaire.

The indexes of diagnostic efficiency used in this study were sensitivity, specificity, positive predictive value, negative predictive value, accuracy and area under the receiver operating characteristic (ROC) curve.

The results showed that the sensitivity values of schizophrenia first rank symptoms ranged from 14.29% (for made impulses) to 68.57% (for voices commenting and voices conversing). Their specificity ranged from 73.46% (for voices commenting) to 100% (for thought broadcasting, thought insertion, thought withdrawal and delusional perception). Their accuracy ranged from 41% (for made thoughts) to 78% (for voices conversing).