

Impact of menstrual cycle on schizophrenia

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This work aimed to investigate the hypothesis that monthly cycle during its different phases may affect schizophrenia regarding the severity and exacerbation of symptoms. Forty female schizophrenic inpatients were examined over two menstrual cycles. All subjects met ICD10 criteria for schizophrenia, and their psychotic symptoms rated using the positive and negative scale for schizophrenia (PANSS) during each of the three menstrual phases (premenstrual, menstrual and postmenstrual). Data from the 27 subjects who completed the study were used for statistical analysis. The study findings suggested that premenstrual exacerbation of symptoms in female schizophrenics may not be a worsening of the core schizophrenic symptoms, but a concurrence of a cluster of affective, behavioral and somatic symptoms, which may be related to hormonal changes.