

The relationship between vulnerability to schizophrenia and some indicators of psychological abnormalities

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Objectives: to examine the relationship between vulnerability to schizophrenia and some indicators of psychological abnormalities. Methods: The study compared between two groups of female college students, high risk group (n=40), and control group (n= 40). Vulnerability to schizophrenia was determined psychometrically through high score on The Schizotypal Personality Questionnaire (Claridge & Broks, 1984), whereas indicators of psychological abnormalities were high anxiety, family and personal history of psychological disorders. Results: High risk group exhibited more anxiety than control group, (35.38 $\pm$ 5.34 versus 22.9 $\pm$ 8.98) on Taylor Manifest Anxiety Scale. High risk group reported significantly higher number of relatives displaying psychiatric disturbances (9 versus 2 for control group). The problems reported were mainly anxiety disorders and depression. One of the relatives in the control group reported anxiety and the other suspiciousness. Besides, 6 females in the high risk group reported symptoms of anxiety and depression, with no member of the control group reporting any psychiatric abnormalities. Conclusion: the result support validity of Schizotypal Personality Scale (STA) in exploring predisposition to psychological disturbances. Follow up is a basic strategy to determine the relationship between these psychological abnormalities and psychosis.