

Mixed handedness and the schizophrenic spectrum

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The objective of this study to was detect the prevalence of the type of handedness in patients with schizophrenia, with special emphasis on mixed handedness and to explore any correlation between schizotypal traits and mixed handedness in normal healthy controls.

Forty two patients with schizophrenia and sixty three normal healthy controls participated in this study. Briggs Handedness questionnaire was used to identify patterns of handedness found in both patients and controls. The Scale for the Assessment of Schizotypal personality (SPQ) was applied to the controls to assess presence of schizotypal traits. Results: No significant differences in the hand preferences were identified either between patients with schizophrenia and controls. Also there were no significant differences in the results of the SPQ among the three subgroups of controls (RH, LH and MH). Conclusion: This study failed to demonstrate increase prevalence of mixed handedness in schizophrenic patients. Similar studies with a larger number of participants utilizing a combination of observational methods and multiple items questionnaires are recommended.