

Auditory processing-contingent potentials and disability in schizophrenic patients treated with atypical antipsychotic medication

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Schizophrenia is conceptualized as a neuro-developmental disease with multiple functional deficits including the interrelated domain of attention, memory and information processing. Such deficits could be evaluated objectively utilizing measurements of auditory evoked potentials. For such purpose auditory mismatch negativity (MMN) and P300 were assessed in 38 first - episode schizophrenic patients just before and after risperidone treatment.

Assessment of degree of disability and its correlation with Auditory processing.

On comparing the measured values with that of the normal control subjects, no statistically significant difference was detected as regards MMN measures with no observable effect of atypical antipsychotic. On the other hand, P300 component showed delayed latency and smaller amplitude for the unmedicated patients that were markedly enhanced after atypical antipsychotic treatment; also there is statistically significant correlation between the degree of disability and MMN as well as P300 measures before and after treatment. Conclusion: These results indicated that the attention-dependent processes reflected in P300 measures are already defective in the early stage of schizophrenia and could be improved with the use of atypical antipsychotic medication.