

Clinical and neurocognitive correlates of insight

Azzam, H. Sayyah, H. Eisa, A.

Current Psychiatry. Ain Shams University (Print)

2009 v16 n1

The aim of this study is to examine the clinical and cognitive correlates of lack of insight in schizophrenia. Subjects and methods: A sample of 30 schizophrenic patients diagnosed with schizophrenia according to the DSM-IV. Positive and Negative Symptom Scale (PANSS) were applied to assess symptom severity; Scale of Unawareness of Mental Illness (SUMD); Schedule for the Assessment of Insight (SAI) and Beck Cognitive Insight Scale (BCIS) were used to assess clinical and cognitive insight.

Wisconsin Card Sorting Test is used as a measure of executive functions and Wechsler Memory Scale is used to assess attention verbal and visual memory. Visual memory was significantly correlated to awareness to mental disorder, awareness to achieved effects of medications ($p < 0.05$), correct attribution of symptoms as well as to global clinical insight assessed by the scale of assessment of insight (SAI). The only significant correlation between insight and WCST was that between the score and correct attribution of symptoms ($p < 0.027$). No significant correlations between dimensions of psychopathology and any of the insight dimensions. Insight is a multidimensional phenomenon with some of its dimensions correlated to some cognitive functions but not to clinical variables of the disease.

Key words: Insight, Schizophrenia, Neurocognitive.