Obsessive-compulsive and depressive symptomatology in patients with schizophrenia

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In the present study we sought (a) to examine the point prevalence of obsessive-compulsive (OC) symptoms and depressive symptoms among in-patients with schizophrenia, (b) to assess correlations between social-demographic parameters of patients and clinical symptoms, (c) to determine the comorbidity of obsessive-compulsive symptoms and depressive symptoms. Seventy four in-patients with a DSM-IV diagnosis of schizophrenia participated in this study. The patients were assessed through structured clinical interviews carried out by two independent clinicians, and with the following standardized clinical rating scales: the Calgary Depression Scale for Schizophrenia (CDSS), the Yale-Brown Obsessions and Compulsions Scale (Y BOC), and the Positive and Negative Symptoms Scale (PANSS). The prevalence of OC symptoms in patients with schizophrenia was 14.9%. At least one depressive symptom was found in 66.2% of patients, while 23% were suffering from depressive episode. 9.5% of patients had concurrently depressive and OC symptoms. We found statistically significant correlations between younger age and depressive symptoms (p=0.04) and negative symptoms and female gender (p=0.03). Furthermore, there were strongly significant correlations between the general psychopathology subscale of PANSS and female gender (p=0.001), the general psychopathology subscale of PANSS and lower educational level (p=0.008) and between negative symptoms and lower educational level (p=0.001). There were no statistically significant differences between schizophrenic patients with or without OC Symptoms regarding the severity (4.36 v s. 3.97, NS) or the frequency (64% v s. 67%, NS) of depressive symptoms.

Key words: schizophrenia, obsessive-compulsive symptoms, depressive symptoms, comorbidity:

Review


