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Analysis of Relationship Between Cognitive Functions and Impulsivity in Patients Suffering From Schizophrenia

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Introduction: Schizophrenia is a mental disorder characterized by loss of cognitive skills. The level of cognitive impairment may affect the degree of impulsiveness, which is defined as a constant willingness to take risks, unplanned activities, rapid decision-making.

Objective: The objective of this study was to analyze the correlation between the level of cognitive functioning and impulsivity.

Methods: The total number of 32 patients (8 female and 15 male) were hospitalized for schizophrenia. They were examined with the Verbal Fluency Test, Trail Making Test (TMT A and B) and Barratt Impulsiveness Scale (BIS-11a). The results of the BIS-11a were converted to the BIS-11.

Results: The mean age of the patients was 34.9 (\pm 8.75). The average time from the end of education - 10 (\pm 8.4) years. A higher degree of correlation between abnormal responses in Verbal Fluency (parts measuring phonemic verbal fluency) and impulsiveness ($r = 0.61$, $p = 0.04$) was found. These correlation referred also to the impulsiveness resulting from the lack of planning ($r = 0.67$, $p = 0.01$), attention impulsiveness ($r = 0.46$, $p = 0.04$) and motor impulsiveness ($r = 0.48$, $p = 0.03$). The correlation between TMT and BIS ($r = -0.1$ part, Part B $r = -0.25$) was not significant ($p > 0.05$).

Conclusion: The above results are preliminary and the research project will be continued.