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SOCIAL FUNCTIONING IN A FIRST-EPIISODE OF PSYCHOSIS: CAN THE EXISTENCE OF AFFECTIVE SYMPTOMS INFLUENCE IT?

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Introduction: Besides psychopathological outcome, the outcome in terms of social functioning is of great importance in first-episode psychosis. This paper has analyzed three components of social functioning: instructional level, professional and marital status.

Objectives: The objective of this paper is to analyze the social functioning after two years of evolution in a sample of subjects with a first-episode psychosis.

Aims: The aim is to determine the way in which the presence of affective elements can influence social functioning in a first-episode psychosis.

Methods: 43 subjects with a first-episode psychosis have been divided into 2 samples, according to the existence of (sample A) / the absence of (sample B) affective symptoms (depressive or manic). We have to mention that the affective elements have not fulfilled the ICD 10 criteria for an affective episode. These two samples have been analyzed at onset and after two years of evolution, according to the following parameters: instructional level, professional and marital status.

Results: We have noticed that there were changes only regarding the professional status and instructional level. After 2 years of evolution, the number of employed subjects was higher in sample A, compared to sample B. All of the subjects in sample A, which were students during their first episode of psychosis, have managed to finish their studies. Family status was not modified in any sample.

Conclusion: The existence of affective elements in a first-episode psychosis has an influence only regarding the professional status.