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**Anti-correlated Brain Networks and Self-agency Experience in First-episode Schizophrenia-spectrum Patients. an fMRI Study.**

F. Spaniel<sup>1</sup>, J. Tintera<sup>2</sup>, J. Rydlo<sup>2</sup>, I. Ibrahim<sup>2</sup>, J. Horacek<sup>1</sup>, T. Kasperek<sup>3</sup>, C. Höschl<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Psychiatry, Prague Psychiatric Centre, Prague, Czech Republic ; <sup>2</sup>MRI unit, Institute for Clinical and Experimental Medicine MR-Unit ZRIR, Prague, Czech Republic ; <sup>3</sup>Psychiatry, Department of Psychiatry University Hospital Brno Faculty of Medicine Masaryk University Brno Czech Republic, Prague, Czech Republic

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**Abstract:**

In this study we sought to explore patterns of neural activity related to the self/other-agency judgment in patients with first-episode schizophrenia spectrum disorders (FES) and healthy controls (HC).

**Participants:** Thirty-five FES patients and 35 age-, gender- and education-matched healthy controls.

**Main Outcome Measures:** A task-related functional connectivity analysis with the use of independent component analysis (ICA).

**Results:** ICA revealed that the self/other-agency judgment was dependent upon anti-correlated default mode and central-executive networks (DMN/CEN) dynamic switching. This antagonistic mechanism was substantially impaired in FES during the task.

Time-courses of DMN/CEN activity has been analyzed by means of signal power and spectral coherence. There was statistically significant difference in the variable (anti-correlation index, AI) between FES and HC. AI correlated with self-agency judgment task performance in FES.

**Conclusions:** This finding suggests that the main site of pathology in schizophrenia-spectrum disorders may originate in higher-order regulatory mechanisms subserving DMN/CEN orchestration.

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