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## The Relationship of Perceived Family Criticism and Other Risk Factors to Violence Among Patients with Schizophrenia

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**Background** Patients with schizophrenia in particular are reported to engage in violent acts that are more frequent and more severe compared with other psychiatric illnesses. The aim of this study was to identify the risk factors associated with violence among schizophrenic patients.

**Methods** A convenience sample of 140 inpatient schizophrenic patients were recruited in this study. Schizophrenia was diagnosed using the structured clinical interview for DSM-IV axis I? disorders, clinical version (SCID-I-CV). Positive and Negative Syndrome Scale (PANSS) was applied to the patients. Presence of violence was assessed using the Modified Overt Aggression Scale (MOAS) and perceived family criticism was assessed using the Family Emotional Involvement and Criticism Scale (FEICS)

**Results** of the 140 schizophrenic patients, 66 (47.1%) reported a presence of violence as a cause for their admission. Presence of positive symptoms and excitement, Male gender, non-compliance with treatment, presence of previous hospitalizations due to violence, and higher levels of perceived family criticism were found to be significantly associated with violence among schizophrenic patients. (OR= 2.1, 1.16, 1.27, 1.14, 1.34, 1.20 respectively).

**Conclusion** Positive symptoms of schizophrenia, male gender, non-compliance with treatment, a history of violence and perceived family criticism were found to be associated with violence among schizophrenic patients in the current study. All these factors should be considered in the treatment regimen of schizophrenia to decrease violence among those patients.