
KNOWLEDGE OF THE ILLNESS AND ITS RELATIONS WITH QUALITY OF LIFE, SOCIAL FUNCTIONING, COGNITIVE PERFORMANCES, AND ADHERENCE IN PSYCHOTIC PATIENTS: TOWARD EFFECTIVENESS-FOCUSED INTERVENTIONS.

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Introduction: Psychosocial factors are often underestimated in psychotic patients, although they may profoundly influence (and be influenced by) clinical presentation and effectiveness of therapeutic interventions in these people.

Objectives: To investigate relevance, relationship with clinical presentation and overall quality of life of multiple psychosocial factors in psychotic patients.

Aims: To evaluate whether knowledge about the illness and utilization of health services are defective in psychotic vs. non-psychotic patients and whether these correlates with the type of psychotic symptoms, cognitive performances, global social functioning, quality of life, and acceptance of pharmacotherapy.

Methods: Approximately 110 patients were enrolled after written informed consent. Patients were administered the Positive and Negative Syndrome Scale (PANSS), the Personal and Social Performance scale (PSP), the Drug Attitude Inventory (DAI), the Quality of Life Enjoyment and Satisfaction Questionnaire (Q-LES-Q). All patients were also screened for cognitive performances. Patients and relatives completed a questionnaire on knowledge about the illness and on the level of utilization of mental health services. Patients were subdivided in psychotic (cases) and non-psychotic (controls) based on their score on the PANSS.

Results: Psychotic patients and their relatives showed lower levels of knowledge about the illness. These features were associated with the other variables assessed in a very complex and multidimensional model of reciprocal influences.

Conclusions: Lack of response to pharmacological treatments and to overall therapeutic interventions in psychotic patients may also depend on multiple psychosocial factors, which may be carefully investigated and become the target of adjunctive, effectiveness-focused interventions.