

SEC11-3**DIAGNOSING SCHIZOPHRENIA IN THE PRODROMAL PHASE**

Joachim Klosterkötter*, Frauke Schultze-Lutter. *University of Cologne, Dept. of Psychiatry, 50924 Cologne, Germany*

The new results of the still ongoing Cologne-Bonn-Aachen Early Recognition Project will be presented. In this prospective follow-up study, the schizophrenia-predictive power of early self-experienced neuropsychological deficits, so called 'basic symptoms'; is evaluated.

Until now, 153 patients were re-examined who initially had been referred to three German university clinics for diagnostic clarification, because suspicion of a schizophrenic prodrome had emerged. At the index-examination as well as at the re-examination, they were assessed with the 9th version of the 'Present State Examination-PSE9' and the 'Bonn Scale for the Assessment of Basic Symptoms-BSABS'. None of the patients had ever shown any positive or negative symptoms of schizophrenia at the time of the index-examination. Whereas in 104 patients, the deficits present at the index-examination were classified as prodromal basic symptoms, in 49 patients, they were not.

At the re-examination that was in average eight years later, more than half of the subjects had developed a schizophrenic disorder according to DSM-III-R- or DSM-IV-criteria during the catamnestic interval. In 79%, the presence/absence of a transition to schizophrenia was correctly predicted by the presence/absence of self-experienced neuropsychological deficits of thought, speech, memory, perception and motor action at the index-examination. Thus, the presence of basic symptoms predicted the presence of a schizophrenic disorder for 72% of the cases (i.e. positive predictive power), whereas the absence of basic symptoms predicted the absence of schizophrenia for 94% of patients (i.e. negative predictive power).

These findings suggest that certain basic symptoms are able to indicate a psychosis proneness and to separate patients with a beginning schizophrenia from those with non-schizophrenic disorders in the absence of diagnostically relevant psychotic symptoms.

SEC11-4**EARLY INTERVENTION AND THE COURSE OF RECENT ONSET SCHIZOPHRENIA**

Donald Linszen*, Peter Dingemans, Maria Lenior, Lieuwe de Haan, Pim Scholte. *Academic Medical Centre, University of Amsterdam, Amsterdam, The Netherlands*

Recognition and intervention at the earliest possible stage of emerging florid psychosis in schizophrenia and related disorders may contribute to earlier symptom remission, delay of psychotic relapse and prevention of psychosocial deterioration. In a Dutch study young patients with schizophrenia patients participated during in-patient treatment patients participated in a highly structured programme including psycho-education for all relatives of the patients. The study addressed the question whether after the in-patient programme the introduction of a year long behavioural family intervention programme in combination with a patient oriented psychosocial intervention including maintenance drug treatment and drug management could prevent psychotic relapse and could improve the course of the disorder when contrasted with the individual intervention plus drug treatment.

The relapse rate in these young patients in both treatment conditions turned out to be low during intervention (15%). The addition of a behavioural family intervention programme failed to

make a significant beneficial effect on psychotic relapse, neither in high nor in low EE family environments. Two patients from low EE families relapsed in the individual and family intervention. EE emerged to have strong predictive value and turned out to be a robust predictor, when a conservative measure of relapse was used. Cannabis abuse was the only major predictor in the group of patients with high EE families.

One may presume that the favourable effect of the intervention programme would last after the intensive 15-month treatment programme. The results of the follow-up study are in sharp contrast with that expectation; 64% of the patients relapsed during the follow up period.

SEC11-5**EARLY DETECTION AND TREATMENT OF AFFECTIVE DISORDER**

J.B. Aldenhoff. *Department Psychiatry, Christian-Albrechts-University, Kiel, Germany*

Early treatment of affective disorders is hampered by a number of facts which are based on disorder as well as on diagnostic process. Risk factors belong to personal and social disposition as well as to life events. The different risks generated in these realms could be interactive as well as additive. Since the significance of a single factor in an individual life situation is unclear, prediction of a disorder requiring a specific treatment is difficult regarding to an individual. Another problem is the coupling between diagnostic criteria and treatment. From compliance as well as from ethical reasons it is difficult if not impossible to start a treatment with well known side effects if the full range of diagnostic criteria is not given. However, epidemiological knowledge suggests that subthreshold symptomatology has a high predictive value in respect to the development of an episode of affective disorder. Thus, it might be reasonable to start treatment earlier than it is possible.

Besides these theoretical problems, psychiatric reality is another factor hindering early detection and treatment: - a high number of depressives contacts only general practitioners but no psychiatrists, -according to north-american standards, in Germany most patients with depression were treated with too low dosages and for a too short period of time, -the full spectrum of therapies available in principle (TCA's, SSRI's, depression-specific psychotherapies, ECT), is not found in real life.

S12. Negative symptoms in schizophrenia: a diagnostic and therapeutic challenge

Chairs: WW Fleischhacker (A), H-J Möller (D)

S12-1**THE EPIDEMIOLOGY AND DIFFERENTIAL DIAGNOSIS OF NEGATIVE SYMPTOMS IN SCHIZOPHRENIA**

Yves Lecrubier. *Hôpital de la Salpêtrière, 47 Bd de l'Hôpital, F-75013 Paris, France*

Attempts to identify pathognomonic symptoms in schizophrenia were constantly unsuccessful for more than one century. Clinically, three dimensions do coexist while showing some independence, these are: positive symptoms, negative symptoms (NS) and disorganisation.

Although NS were considered fundamental by Bleuler, the DSM classifications favoured the Schneiderian symptoms because these are easier to identify, to assess and responded to classical neuroleptics. T. Crow stimulated research in this area by proposing that NS reflected a different etiopathogenic process not responsive to treatment. In parallel, different multidimensional analysis of symptomatology progressively defined the core symptoms of this dimension and the importance of environmental factors (neuroleptics, improvement of positive symptoms, institutionalisation) was underlined leading to the concept of primary and secondary negative symptoms. Different epidemiological findings suggest that NS are central in schizophrenia:

- Their presence is correlated with the presence of neurological soft signs.
- Twin studies show a better concordance of NS in monozygotic twins not found for positive symptoms.
- Positive symptoms fluctuate during evolution while NS remain stable, specially anhedonia, affective blunting, avolition. The same symptoms appear to be linked to a poor outcome in most studies with a duration >2 years. When the early stage of schizophrenia and premorbid symptomatology is considered again NS appear to be the most common early signs. During the premorbid phase, NS (withdrawal, anhedonia, restricted interest) are characteristic together with unusual thoughts and abstraction and learning difficulties. In addition, these early premorbid signs are related to the stable negative symptomatology during the active phase of the illness. Therefore, not only NS at the origin of the long term burden induced by schizophrenia but they appear to be the most constant phenomenon from premorbid to the late stage of illness.

Consequences of this finding will be discussed.

S12-2

NEGATIVE SYMPTOMS: CONCEPTS AND PATHOPHYSIOLOGY

P. Liddle. *University of British Columbia, Canada*

Negative symptoms reflect a diminished amount of mental activity, and include poverty of speech, affect and spontaneous movement. Some authors include a wider range of phenomena. For example, Andreasen also includes poor performance in occupational and social roles, and attentional impairment. However, it is likely that the broader definition of negative symptoms embraces features that reflect either reduced or disorganised mental activity. Even if we focus only on those symptoms that reflect reduced mental activity, several different pathophysiological processes contribute to these symptoms. The negative symptoms arising during an acute episode of illness tend to respond to antipsychotic medication, but those developing in the chronic phase are usually persistent, suggesting that different mechanisms are involved. PET studies indicate that negative symptoms are associated with evidence of frontal lobe underactivity. In severe, persistent cases, there is also evidence of reduced frontal grey matter. However, even in persistent cases, the frontal lobes are capable of activation under some circumstances. The pharmacological mechanisms involved in negative symptoms remain uncertain, though some evidence implicates dopaminergic underactivity.

S12-3

THE MEASUREMENT OF NEGATIVE SYMPTOMS

S. Dollfus. *Groupe de Recherche, Psychopathologie et schizophrénies (UPRES JE2014) Centre Esquirol, CHU de Caen 14000, France*

All the scales used to evaluate negative symptoms such as SANS (Scale for the Assessment of Negative Symptoms, Andreasen), PANSS (Positive and Negative Syndrome Scale, Kay) do not distinguish primary from secondary negative symptoms and do not evaluate enduring negative symptoms. The measurement of the negative symptoms with these scales shows that negative symptoms are not necessarily stable during the course of illness and can vary with other symptoms (extrapyramidal, depression or positive symptoms). Indeed, in a longitudinal study, we showed that some negative symptoms improved with the decrease of akinesia and depression scores during the recovery of an acute phase while other negative symptoms such as unchanging facial expression, decreased spontaneous movements, paucity of expressive gestures, lack of vocal inflections and poverty of speech did not vary.

In order to measure primary and enduring symptoms, the Schedule of Deficit Syndrome (SDS, Kirkpatrick et al, 1989) can be used to categorize patients into deficit and non deficit subtypes.

In a large cohort of schizophrenic patients, we showed that the negative subtype defined with PANSS was not equivalent to the deficit subtype defined with SDS. Moreover, the Wisconsin Card Sorting Test (categorical and perseverative errors) was more impaired, antisaccades (rate and latency) and neurological abnormalities (soft signs) were significantly more frequent in deficit patients than in non deficit patients while no difference was observed between negative and non negative patients.

These results suggest that a cerebral dysfunction in particular in dorsolateral prefrontal cortex could be observed in deficit patients but not in all the negative patients in whom secondary negative symptoms can be observed.

S12-4

TREATMENT OF NEGATIVE SYMPTOMS IN SCHIZOPHRENIA

Hans-Jürgen Möller. *Psychiatric Department, Ludwig-Maximilian-University of Munich, Nussbaumstrasse 7, Germany*

There is a strong debate in the literature whether neuroleptics are able to reduce negative symptoms and whether this is a direct or an indirect effect (e.g. via reduction of positive symptoms or via a better extrapyramidal tolerability). Nearly all trials on older neuroleptics are not designed to answer this question in a conclusive way. After a careful review of published studies on older neuroleptics in the treatment of negative symptoms, a final conclusion could not be drawn as to whether certain older neuroleptics are superior to other older neuroleptics with respect to negative symptoms or whether older neuroleptics in general are effective in primary negative symptoms. However, there is some evidence in negative symptoms accompanying positive symptoms to improve under the treatment with all neuroleptics, corresponding with amelioration of positive symptoms. Clozapine general seen as a first atypical antipsychotic seems to give some more evidence for a better effect on negative symptoms compared to older neuroleptics. However, also the Clozapine studies are generally lacking an advanced methodological standard concerning the evaluation of treatment effects on negative symptoms.

One of the primary goals in the development of new antipsychotics is efficacy in negative symptoms. Some of the new compounds brought on the market in the last years, like Risperidone,