
GENDER-SPECIFIC NEUROCOGNITIVE DIFFERENCES AMONG SCHIZOPHRENIA PATIENTS

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Background: According to the data from literature the neurocognitive changes in schizophrenia are mild to moderate and are modestly related to negative symptoms. Cognitive deficits in schizophrenia are regarded by many psychiatrist as an important symptom, which requires appropriate treatment and rehabilitation. There are different conditions, which may have an influence cognitive impairment in schizophrenic patients. One the factors differentiating subgroups of schizophrenic patients when neuropsychological functioning is analyzed is sex.

Subjects and methods: This Review was focused on cognitive functioning of schizophrenic patients of different sexes. In order to achieve this result PubMed was searched using following terms: cognitive functions, schizophrenia, gender differences, sex hormones, memory, attention, neuropsychological, psychopathological symptoms.

Results: Most of the analyzed papers reflecting the cognitive differences between men and women suffering from schizophrenia postulate a worse performance in neuropsychological test by male patients. However according to some authors there are no gender differences in cognitive functioning in schizophrenic patients or those differences are not clinically significant.

Conclusions: The above analysis shows that there is a number of studies, according to which differences between men and women among schizophrenic patients are present, however the problem of sex-specific differences in cognitive functioning in patients in schizophrenia needs further investigation.