

The goals of this study are to analyze the pattern of SC variables in schizophrenia using cluster analysis, to examine the relationship of real-life functioning with cluster membership, and to identify cut-offs that best discriminate among clusters in a large sample of patients with schizophrenia recruited to the Italian Network for Research on Psychoses (NIRP). A full assessment of different aspects of SC was carried out, including emotional intelligence, recognition and theory of mind (TOM).

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The effects of integrated treatment with atypical antipsychotics and social cognition training on functional outcome

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Social cognition is impaired in patients with schizophrenia [1]. This impairment is one of the core features of the illness and has a clear impact on functional outcome.

While conventional antipsychotics might have a worsening effect on social cognition, e.g. on amygdala attenuation in fMRI studies on facial recognition [2], atypical antipsychotics might not show this effect [3].

Social cognitive training [4] – such as the training of affect recognition [5] – is a promising approach in the treatment of schizophrenia.

Holistic strategies including both treatment with atypical antipsychotics and social cognitive training can improve functional outcome in patients with schizophrenia [6].

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Suicide risk evaluation: From research to clinical practice

w40

Future direction of suicidal risk assessment

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Objective to explore future directions on the assessment of the risk of suicidal behavior (SB).

Methods narrative review of current and future methods to improving the assessment of the risk of suicidal behavior (SB).

Results Predicting future SB is a long-standing goal. Currently, the identification of individuals at risk of SB is based on clinician's subjective reports. Unfortunately, most individuals at risk of SB often

do not disclose their suicidal thoughts. In the near future, predicting the risk of SB will be enhanced by: (1) introducing objective, reliable measures – i.e. biomarkers – of suicide risk; (2) selecting the most discriminant variables, and developing more accurate measures – i.e. questionnaires – and models for suicide prediction; (3) incorporating new sources of information – i.e. facebook, online monitoring; (4) applying novel methodological instruments such as data mining, or computer adaptive testing; and, (5) most importantly, combining predictors from different domains (clinical, neurobiological and cognitive).

Conclusions Given the multi-determined nature of SB, a combination of clinical, neuropsychological, biological, and neuroimaging factors, among other might help overcome current limitations in the prediction of SB. Furthermore, given the complexity of prediction of future SB, currently our efforts should be focused on the prevention of SB.

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W41

New technologies for detecting suicidal risk of psychiatric patients

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Suicide is a major health issue with considerable human and economic costs. There have been many attempts to develop techniques capable of predicting future suicidal behavior, but known risk factors are insufficiently specific. However, during the last decades, technical developments have made possible the use of new technologies to assess potential clinical markers for psychiatric patients. In many cases the technologies are affordable, wearable and interconnected, multiplying the wealth of data resulting from their use. Quite logically, psychiatrists from all over the world are investing in recently developed devices for their research projects and have consequently started to collaborate with engineering and pattern recognition groups in the study of potential clinical markers. These groups provide the expertise and computational methods required to process this wealth of data, and can improve the classification accuracy to predict a certain condition using data mining techniques. In the field of suicidal behavior, new devices that capture promising predictors such as electrodermal response activity, some facial expressions or speech properties have been developed and are being tested. In view of these facts, during the workshop we will review some of the new methodologies that can be used for the assessment of suicidal risk and how can multidisciplinary and complementary approaches be implemented.

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W42

Electrodermal hyporeactivity evaluation for detecting suicidal propensity in depressed patients

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Introduction Since 1987 several publications have focused on electrodermal reactivity in groups with different suicidal behaviors, but with varying results. However, using an untraditional statistical approach with clinical application in focus revealed between themselves confirming results of a strong relationship between electrodermal hyporeactivity and suicide.