Emotion Perception, Theory of Mind and Social Knowledge in Schizophrenia

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Introduction: Impairments in social cognitions in schizophrenia are increasingly reported in the last decade but only a few studies have come from Asia.

Objective: To evaluate emotion perception, theory of mind and social knowledge in people with schizophrenia compared to healthy controls

Methods: Participants were 36 clinically stable outpatients with schizophrenia and 36 normal controls with comparable age and level of education. We administered general neurocognition test (the Addenbrooke's Cognitive Examination; ACE), emotion perception (the Faces Test), theory of mind (the Eyes Test) and social knowledge (the Situational Features Recognition Test; SFRT).

Results: Schizophrenia patients displayed obvious impairment in all three social cognition domains i.e. the Faces Test (13.7±2.9) vs 15.7±1.9, p<0.001, the Eyes Test (18.9±4.4) vs 23.5±4.4, p<0.001 and SFRT (0.85±0.01) vs 0.90±0.01, p=0.002. The performances on three social cognition tests did not correlate with positive symptoms. Only the Faces Test seemed to be related to negative symptoms.

Conclusions: The results demonstrated that there are deficits of social cognitions in schizophrenia even with population with clinically stable.