

Executive Cognitive Functioning, Visual Motor Functioning and Working Memory Deficits in Schizophrenics

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The present study aimed to assess the deficits in executive functioning, visual motor functioning and working memory in patients with schizophrenia using various neuropsychological protocols. Participants were 25 schizophrenia patients who were referred by senior psychiatrists from the outpatient psychiatry departments of Rawalpindi General Hospital & Military Hospital Rawalpindi, Pakistan. All patients were clinically stable for the administration of neuropsychological tests and maintained their daily medication protocol/intake. Executive functioning was assessed using Trails B, Stroop Color Task and Stroop Color Word Test (SCT & SCWT) and Controlled Oral Word Association test (COWA). Visual motor functioning was assessed by Trails A, Bender Visual Motor Gestalt Test and Mazes test. Working Memory was assessed by subtests of Wechsler Memory Scale: Word-List I, Letter Number Sequencing (LNS) and Digit Span. Patients with more than 3 years of history of illness performed poorly on tests of executive functioning, visual motor and working memory as compared to patients with less than 3 years illness.

Key words: Executive Cognitive Functioning, Visual Motor Functioning, Working Memory, Schizophrenia.