STUDY OF LIFE EVENTS AND PREMORBID FUNCTION IN RECENT ONSET SCHIZOPHRENIA

ABSTRACT:

BACKGROUND : Research strongly supports that stressful life events may act as trigger of schizophrenia

AIM AND OBJECTIVES

1. To study the effects of life events in the year preceding the onset of disease
2. to study the premorbid function of the patient
3. To study the premorbid personality of the patient presenting for the first time with schizophrenia
4. to study the duration of untreated psychosis

METHODOLOGY ;

INCLUSION CRITERIA;

1. persons diagnosed as schizophrenia according to ICD 10
2. person presenting for the first time to outpatient department

EXCLUSION CRITERIA

1. patients with other mental disorder.
2. patient with mental retardation other comorbid cognitive disturbance
3. patients with substance intake

SCALES

1. proforma
2. icd 10 diagnostics criteria for schizophrenia
3. positive and negative syndrome scale (Stanley Kay et al 1987)
4. presumptive life events scale (Gurmeet Sing et al 1984)
5. premorbid adjustment scale (Cannon Spoor et al 1982)
6. premorbid schizoid and schizotypal assessment scale
7. global assessment functioning scale

STUDY DESIGN

• The study was a CASE CONTROL study, conducted at the institute of mental health, Chennai. Consecutive 60 schizophrenic patients attending outpatient department were selected.

• 60 age, sex, matched normal controls are selected from the general population

RESULTS:

The results shows that schizophrenic patients were experiencing higher number of life events (nearly two times) compared to controls and the severity of life events score also increased. The married male schizophrenics were experiencing higher number of life events than married female schizophrenics. The schizophrenic patients had poor premorbid function and higher level of schizoid and schizotypal traits than controls.

KEY WORDS: Schizophrenia, life events, married male schizophrenics, premorbid function, schizoid and schizotypal traits