

ABSTRACT

Title of the abstract: A cross sectional study on cognitive functioning in patients with schizophrenia and its association with socio-demographic variables clinical variables and disability.

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Objectives: To assess cognitive functioning, psychopathology and disability in adult patients with schizophrenia and to study association of cognitive functioning and disability with socio-demographic variables and illness - related variables.

Methods: In this cross sectional study, 82 consecutive adult patients with schizophrenia [more than one year duration] along with their caregivers were recruited from the out-patient department of Psychiatry Christian Medical College Vellore. The study was cleared by Institutional Review Board. After obtaining informed written consent from both patients and caregivers, cognitive functioning was assessed using Schizophrenia Cognition Rating Scale, psychopathology was assessed using Positive and Negative Syndrome Scale and disability was assessed using Indian Disability Evaluation and Assessment Scale. Socio-demographic details and illness related details were

collected using a semi-structured questionnaire. Data entry and analysis were done in SPSS.

Results: Our study has shown that cognitive dysfunction in schizophrenia is common with 93.9 % of patients having at least one cognitive symptom even though not severe. The status of being married is associated with better cognitive outcome. No other socio-demographic factor was associated with cognitive dysfunction. Negative symptoms and general psychopathology scores of PANSS were positively correlated with SCoRS scores. Cognitive dysfunction and disability were significantly associated suggesting higher the cognitive deficit in schizophrenia greater is the likelihood of patient experiencing disability.

Keywords: schizophrenia, cognitive functioning, disability.