

PATTERN RECOGNITION MEMORY IN FIRST-EPISODE TREAT-NAIVE DEFICIT AND NONDEFICIT SCHIZOPHRENIA PATIENTS

L. Ding, W. Deng, Q. Wang, X. Ma, M. Li, Y. Han, T. Li

Psychiatry Lab, West China Hospital, Sichuan University, Chengdu, China

Objective: To investigate the difference of visual pattern memory among first-episode treatment-naive patients with deficit and nondeficit schizophrenia.

Methods: 199 first-episode treatment-naive patients with schizophrenia, and 148 controls were recruited. Schedule for the Deficit Syndrome (SDS) was used to categorize the patients into deficit or nondeficit subtype. Pattern Recognition Memory (PRM) was used to test the immediate and delayed mode of visual pattern memory. Positive and Negative Symptom Scale PANSS was used to assess the degree of patients symptoms.

Results: The PRM immediate mode and delayed mode percent correct was significant lower and time latency was significant longer in two subtypes of patients. There were no significant difference in the performance of immediate mode of PRM between deficit and nondeficit patients [(86.49±15.34) vs. (87.28±16.00), $P=0.960$]. But the impairment was more severe in patients with deficit schizophrenia [percent correct (63.10±19.17) vs. (70.69±15.34), $P<0.001$ time latency 5086.80±7528.54 vs. 3527.40±3649.08 $P=0.024$] in the delayed mode. And PRM has no significant correlation with the negative symptoms of deficit schizophrenia.

Conclusion: There were significant difference in the performance of immediate and delayed mode of PRM between patients and controls. The difference between first-episode treatment-naive deficit schizophrenia and nondeficit schizophrenia was only in delayed mode of PRM, and has no correlation with the primary negative symptoms. The deficit schizophrenia is a subtype of schizophrenia with unique impairment of cognitive functions.