

Methodology This cross-sectional study involved a sample of 30 patients and 11 doctors. An adapted and culturally validated version of the Communication Assessment Tool was used for data collection. Data were analysed in IBM SPSS Statistics®, version 24.

Results Male patients constituted 86.7% of the sample and mean age was 46.7 ± 13.3 . The overall mean percentage of items rated as excellent by patients was 57.4%. On the other hand, external observer percentage of excellent scores was much lower when compared with patients' scores. Single, divorced or widower/widow patients, patients with higher educational level and patients with shorter number of years in medical treatment gave significantly higher scores to psychiatrists' communication. Patients' sex, age, occupation residence and family type did not yield statistically significant effects on patients' ratings.

Conclusions Communication is at the heart of psychiatrists' daily practice. Many communication styles might be needed, depending on the nature of clinical encounters and patient expectations. Specific training is required to optimise psychiatrists' communication skills on everyday practice.

Disclosure of interest The authors have not supplied their declaration of competing interest.

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Sexual-dimorphism of the planum temporale in schizophrenia: An MRI study

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Introduction Anatomical alterations in the Superior Temporal Gyrus (STG) have been reported in schizophrenia. The STG is one of the most asymmetric and lateralized structure of the brain, and the process of lateralization seems to vary according to gender. Although it has been suggested that patients with schizophrenia do not show normal brain lateralization, only few studies investigated it in the STG considering the effects of sex.

Objectives The objective of this study is to evaluate sexual dimorphism in STG volumes in a sample of patients with schizophrenia compared to age- and sex-matched healthy controls.

Methods Seventy-two right-hander males (40 schizophrenia patients and 32 controls) and 45 right-hander females (18 schizophrenia patients and 27 controls) underwent clinical evaluation and a 1.5T MRI scan. Gray and white matter volumes of regions of interests within the STG were detected, including the Heschl's Gyrus (HG) and the planum temporale (PT).

Results Female patients with schizophrenia presented a reduction in left PT gray matter volumes ($F=4.58$, $P=0.03$) and a lack of the normal PT asymmetry index ($t=0.27$; $P=0.79$) compared to female controls ($t=5.47$; $P<0.001$). No differences were found between males for volumes or laterality. Also, in patients with schizophrenia STG gray and white volumes negatively correlated with positive symptoms ($r=-0.33$, $P=0.02$ and $r=-0.29$, $P=0.03$ respectively), whereas left PT gray matter volumes were negatively associated to duration of illness ($r=-0.27$, $P=0.04$).

Conclusions Sexual dimorphism plays a key role on PT in schizophrenia, underlying the importance of gender as a modulator of brain morphology and lateralization of schizophrenia.

Disclosure of interest The authors have not supplied their declaration of competing interest.

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A case of delusional disorder

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Introduction Functioning of patients with delusional disorder may be impaired, particularly if the delusional thinking is chronic rather than episodic. They refuse to characterize their beliefs as false and view opposing views with surprise, if not hostility and disdain, dismissing or ignoring them, and continuing their struggle to find resolution or restitution for the wrongs they have endured or the illnesses from which they suffer. They typically reject and often resent the suggestion that they are mentally compromised. They are a difficult group to engage clinically, often refusing to meet with a clinician about their delusions and/or to take medication. The first-line treatment of delusional disorder is antipsychotic medication rather than other clinical interventions. Patients with the disorder often reject psychiatric treatment, it is particularly important that medication be prescribed in the context of a therapeutic relationship that includes support, education, encouragement of healthier pursuits, and discouragement of damaging, delusion-inspired actions.

Methods We describe a case of a 55-year-old woman with a delusional disorder that was diagnosed 4 years before. The supervision of the right take of the treatment was not possible and the intensity of behavioral disturbances increased. Then we started the treatment with long-acting injectable aripiprazole.

Results Within the 4 months following the start of treatment, her mental state improved by attenuation of psychotic symptoms.

Conclusions Long-acting aripiprazole could be an effective tool for treatment of psychotic symptoms in patients with no insight and difficulties to check the proper treatment take.

Disclosure of interest The authors have not supplied their declaration of competing interest.

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A case of pharmacologic extrapyramidal syndrome

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