

PATIENTS' PERCEPTIONS OF FAMILY STRUCTURE AND SUPPORT IN SCHIZOPHRENIA

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Introduction: The family is the first universal institutional system that is necessary for human survival and development. The relationship between family members determine predisposition to illness and health.

Objective: The purpose of this study is to examine differences in perception between patients with schizophrenia and their normal siblings with regard to family functioning and support.

Methods: In this cross sectional study fifty schizophrenic patients admitted in 2 psychiatric hospital in shiraz and their 50 normal siblings were participated. A demographic questionnaire, The Perceived Social Support-Family Scale and Family Assessment Device were completed by participants.

Result: Significant differences were noted in perception of family structure and family support between patients with schizophrenia and their normal siblings ($p = 0.001$). Score of general family function, problem solving and emotional responsiveness in patients with schizophrenia were significantly lower than their normal siblings ($P < 0.001$).

Conclusions: Patients with schizophrenia perceive their family structure and support more negatively than their sibling. This difference was more significant in problem solving and emotional responsiveness dimensions. Family psycho education and therapy in patients with schizophrenia must consider these aspects of family dysfunction.