Cognitive Symptom Trajectories of Forensic Inpatients with Psychotic Disorder Diagnoses with and without Comorbid Mood Symptoms

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Introduction

• Most forensic inpatients and roughly 1% of the U.S. population are diagnosed with psychotic disorders
• To better inform clinician assessment and treatment, cognitive symptom course should be determined as well as the impact of comorbid mood symptoms
• Two competing trajectory models exist for cognitive dysfunction: degenerative and developmental
• Research on comorbid mood symptoms is limited and mixed

Aims & Hypotheses

• The current study sought to resolve the discrepancy between the trajectory models and explore the impact of comorbid mood symptoms within a large forensic inpatient sample diagnosed with schizophrenia

Hypotheses

• For our overall analyses, based on extant cross-sectional studies, we hypothesized:
  Young and Middle adults would show some cognitive impairment and older adults would be the most impaired
• We conducted exploratory analyses to examine the impact of comorbid mood symptoms due to the mixed findings of current research

Method

• Sample consisted of 708 adult forensic inpatients (≥18 years old) living with schizophrenia spectrum disorder diagnoses
  Mean age = 40.20 years (SD = 10.72)
• Patients were divided into groups: Young Adult (18-34 years), Middle Adult (34-49 years), & Older Adult (≥50 years)
• For subsample analyses, the data set was split into two groups:
  1) Psychotic diagnoses only (n = 353)
  2) Psychotic + comorbid mood diagnoses (n = 355)

Participants

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Results & Discussion

Findings

• Found no significant differences for overall or subsample analyses
• Patients may not experience differences in cognitive dysfunction as they age and mood symptoms may not alter severity of cognitive dysfunction

Limitations

• Used indirect (VRIN-r) and self-report (COG) measures of cognitive dysfunction that may not be as sensitive to changes in cognitive symptom severity compared to neuropsychological tests
• Could not control for medication use or age of onset

Table 1: VRIN-r and COG Scores for Younger, Middle, and Older Patients with Psychotic Disorders

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Young (18-34 Years)</th>
<th>Middle (35-49 Years)</th>
<th>Older (≥ 50 Years)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>n</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>SD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VRIN-r</td>
<td>236</td>
<td>59.94</td>
<td>17.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COG</td>
<td>148</td>
<td>51.18</td>
<td>11.62</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 2: VRIN-r and COG Scores for Patients with Psychotic Disorders with and without Comorbid Mood Disorders

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Psychotic Only</th>
<th>Psychotic with Mood</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>n</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Young (18-34)</td>
<td>116</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle (34-49)</td>
<td>172</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Older (≥50)</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Variable Response Inconsistency Scale (VRIN-r), Cognitive Complaints (COG). For Cognitive Complaints (COG) analyses, invalid protocols (CNS ≥ 18; VRIN-r ≥ 80; TRIN-r ≥ 80; F ≥ 120; Fp ≥ 100; RBS ≥ 80) were excluded.

References

[8] This research was made possible by support from a grant from the University of Minnesota Press, Test Division in support of data collection, and the California State University, Monterey Bay Undergraduate Research Opportunity Center (UROC) for additional financial, logistical, and mentorship support. This research was approved by the CA Human Services Agency Committee for the Protection of Human Subjects. The statements and opinions expressed are those of the authors and do not constitute the official views or the official policy of OSH-Patron, The California Department of State Hospitals, or the State of California.