

**P03-58 - DETERMINANTS OF SOCIAL FUNCTIONING IN FIRST-EPISODE SCHIZOPHRENIA. A PROSPECTIVE FOLLOW-UP STUDY**

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**Objectives:** Comparison of social functioning of first-admitted schizophrenic patients with healthy subjects and evaluation of the influence of several socio-demographic and clinical variables on social abilities of patients, 1 month (T1), 13 months after hospitalization (T2) and 4-6 years after T1 (T3).

**Methods:** A group of 74 schizophrenic patients: 46 male and 28 female; age  $24.7 \pm 6.7$  and a control group of matched 52 male and 34 female subjects were enrolled. Social Functioning Scale (SFS), Positive and Negative Syndrome Scale (PANSS), Global Assessment Scale (GAS) and socio-demographic questionnaire were used.

**Results:** In all examinations SFS scores in the patients (T1 - 103.4; T2- 104.4; T3- 107.0), were significantly lower than in the healthy controls - 117.0 ( $p < 0.001$ ). In longitudinal analysis, a mild improvement was observed in T3 SFS score and in its three subscales ( $p < 0.05$ ). In cross-sectional analysis, better social functioning was associated with female sex, longer education, activity before admission, and better functioning in the pre-admission period. In regression analyses SFS at T2 was predicted by PANSS (27% of the variance) and at T3 by PANSS and duration of psychotic symptoms (20% of the variance).

**Conclusions:** Social functioning in schizophrenia is disturbed from the onset of the disease and may be mildly improved in the intermediate follow-up. The duration of untreated illness and severity of symptoms after the first admission, are the independent significant determinants of social functioning in early course of schizophrenia.