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Poster Presentation

The Relationship between Alexithymia and Social Anxiety in Inpatients with Schizophrenia

Maryam Shahmoradi Pilehrood[1*], Hanieh Abeditehrani[2]

[1]Department of Clinical Psychology, Islamshahr Branch, Islamic Azad University, Islamshahr, Iran
[2]Department of Clinical Psychology, Robatkarim Branch, Islamic Azad University, Robatkarim, Iran

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Abstract

The current study was aimed to examine the relationship between alexithymia and social anxiety among schizophrenic inpatients. The study was of descriptive and predictive nature. Sixty inpatients with DSM-V schizophrenia were recruited from Niayesh psychiatric hospital in 2015 in Tehran, Iran. They were interviewed with the Anxiety Disorders section of the SCID for DSM-IV. The Structured Clinical Interview for DSM-IV-TR (Farsi Version), conducted by an experienced interviewer, will be used to determine the diagnosis. The Liebowitz Social Anxiety Scale appeared adequate and reliable in assessing social anxiety disorder in patients with schizophrenia. The Liebowitz Social Anxiety Scale (LSAS) is a 24-item interview that assesses fear and avoidance, in 11 social interactions and 13 performance situations with a 4-point-Likert scale. The cut-off point for social anxiety diagnosis in LSAS was determined 80.The Toronto Alexithymia Scale and Self-scaled Anxiety Scale were administered. The data was analyzed using correlation and regression methods. The results showed insignificant correlations (0/23) between social anxiety, alexithymia in schizophrenic patients (p=0.01). Moreover, since the sample in this study was consisted only of middle-aged male Iranian inpatients, it is recommended for future researchers to focus on other sex, age, cultural and ethnic groups.

Keywords: Alexithymia, Social anxiety, Schizophrenia

Corresponding Author: Maryam Shahmoradi Pilehrood
E-mail: *m.shahmoradi20@yahoo.com*

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