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Determinants Of Quality Of Life In Schizophrenia.

Abstract

Background: Research conducted to date suggests that patient rated life satisfaction (LS) and observer rated quality of life are not closely related and appear to have different determinants in patients with schizophrenia, although most of the studies conducted to date have used cross sectional methods. The aim of this study was to investigate the longitudinal determinants of QOL and LS in schizophrenia over a one year period.

Methods: 223 patients taking part in the Schizophrenia Care Assessment Program (SCAP) study at Dandenong in Australia were included in this analysis. Subjective ratings of several domains of social functioning and life satisfaction were taken from the SCAP instrument and comparisons made with data from the Quality of Life scale rated by research staff as well as several psychopathology measures. Changes in these scores over one year were correlated to investigate relationships between measures.

Results: Weak correlations were seen between changes in patient and observer rated QOL domains. Patient rated domains had strong negative correlations with depressive symptoms, negative symptoms, positive symptoms and autistic preoccupation. Observer rated domains correlated strongly with negative symptoms and some correlations were seen with depressive symptoms, but observer rated QOL did not seem to be related to positive symptoms.

Conclusions: Longitudinal data appear to confirm that life satisfaction and objectively rated quality of life are not closely related and appear to have differing determinants in patients with schizophrenia. Rating QOL and satisfaction in outcome studies requires an understanding of this divergence.

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