

GENDER DIFFERENCE IN SCHIZOPHRENIC SYMPTOMATOLOGY AND SUBJECTIVE STRESS OF CHINESE ADULTS WITH SCHIZOPHRENIA IN A LONG-STAY RESIDENTIAL SETTING

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OBJECTIVES: Males showed a higher risk of schizophrenia.¹ This study aimed to explore the manifestation of schizophrenia between genders, focusing on schizophrenic symptomatology and perceived stress in Chinese adults with schizophrenia at long-term care residential setting. Results of the present study yield implications for effective health care strategies for this population.

METHODS: A total of 146 Chinese in-patients (80 males and 66 females), aged 24 to 69 (mean \pm standard deviation [SD], 53.97 ± 8.54) years, participated in this cross-sectional study. Independent sample *t*-tests were performed to explore potential gender differences in symptomatology and perceived stress. Schizophrenia symptomatology was indexed by positive and negative symptom, gender psychopathology subscales of the Positive and Negative Symptoms Scale (PANSS), while subjective stress was indicated by the Perceived Stress Scale (PSS).

RESULTS: Results indicated difference on measures of subjective stress ($t(138) = -2.15$, $p \leq 0.05$), negative symptoms ($t(138) = 4.82$, $p \leq 0.01$), and general psychopathology ($t(138) = 3.55$, $p \leq 0.01$) between males and females. Males reported higher level of negative symptoms (mean \pm SD, 21.12 ± 7.64) and general psychopathology (38.43 ± 14.43), but lower level of subjective stress (14.93 ± 6.67) when compared with females (15.38 ± 11.81 ; 38.43 ± 14.34 ; 17.35 ± 6.60).

CONCLUSIONS: The present study replicated existing gender differences findings in schizophrenia.² Males present more negative symptoms, while females reported higher prevalence of perceived stress. The study allows better understanding of illness presentation between the genders, which implies the need for developing gender-specific health care treatments in achieving better functioning outcome.

References

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