first year of the COVID-19 pandemic (March 2020 – February 2021), with those for the year prior (March 2019 – February 2020).
Methods: We screened the clinical records of all individuals living in the London boroughs of Southwark and Lambeth who were referred to the early intervention in psychosis services before (from 1 March 2019 to 28 February 2020) and during (from 1 March 2020 to 28 February 2021) the COVID-19 pandemic. We used Office for National Statistics (ONS) data to estimate the risk populations stratified by sex and age group. We computed crude and sex-age standardised FEP incidence per 100,000 persons-year. We used Poisson regression to calculate the incidence rate ratio (IRR) before and during the COVID-19 pandemic and to examine the incidence variation by sociodemographic factors.
Results: A total of 321 incident cases of FEP were identified during the COVID-19 pandemic accounting for a crude rate of 70.1 (95% CI 62.4 - 77.7) per 100,000 person-year. The crude rate for the year before was 47.5 (95% CI 41.2 - 53.8). The incidence variation between the two years accounted for an adjusted IRR of 1.46 (95% CI 1.23 – 1.76). The increased FEP rates were equally observed across the boroughs of Southwark and Lambeth and men and women. Individuals aged 20-24 (IRR 1.66; 95% CI 1.13 – 2.42) and those from the black ethnic group (IRR 1.61; 95% CI 1·24 – 2·09) showed the greatest incidence increases.
Conclusions: To the best of our knowledge, this is the first study establishing the variation in FEP incidence before and during the COVID-19 pandemic across all adult age groups. We provide the first evidence that the COVID-19 pandemic resulted in a 46% increase in the incidence of psychotic disorders in South London. The increase was higher for young individuals and ethnic minorities. This finding should inform public health research and demonstrates the need for adequate resources for mental health secondary services.

Disclosure of Interest: None Declared

EPP0268

Quantitative electroencephalogram study in patients with schizophrenia : a literature review

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Introduction: There has been a continuous effort to discover and specify the neural correlates of schizophrenia (SCZ) based on spontaneous electroencephalogram (EEG) records. Besides contributing to a more effective diagnosis, biomarkers can be crucial to SCZ to hope for therapeutic progress.
Objectives: a literature review was conducted to ascertain whether or not quantitative EEG spectral abnormalities are consistent enough to warrant additional effort towards developing them into a clinical diagnostic test for schizophrenia.
Methods: A systematic search of the databases , ScienceDirect, and PubMed was conducted using the following words : schizophrenia, electroencephalography, neurobiology. The Preferred Items Reporting for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses (PRISMA) guidelines were followed in the construction of this literature review. Primary research articles that reported descriptive EEG results, included comparisons of subjects with and without antipsychotic therapy, and excluded patients with epilepsy were included in the analysis. We analyzed pooled data, where possible, from studies with a similar intervention and methodology.
Results: Our study included 11 articles on quantitative EEG changes in schizophrenic patients divided as follows: 2 articles on the genetics of SCZ and EEG data, 3 articles on the psychopathology of SCZ and EEG data, 2 articles on hemispheric coherence, and finally 4 articles on the effect of treatment on EEG.Increased beta activity can be considered as an inherited feature of SCZ. Elevated delta/theta and gamma activity may serve as a specific biomarker for this condition. The delta wave may be a neurophysiological tool to differentiate between negative and positive forms of SCZ.EEG tracings of schizophrenic patients showed increased intra- and inter-hemispheric coherence compared to healthy subjects. Treatment with an antipsychotic drug was associated with a more marked increase in frequency bands in patients receiving an atypical antipsychotic drug.
Conclusions: It is important to study the electroencephalographic changes not only to better understand the etiopathogenesis of SCZ, but also to search for specific physiological biomarkers.

Disclosure of Interest: None Declared

EPP0269

The structure stability of negative symptoms: longitudinal network analysis of the Brief Negative Symptom Scale in subjects with schizophrenia

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Introduction: Negative symptoms (NS) represent an unmet need of treatment in schizophrenia (SCZ). As a result, these symptoms pose a significant burden on patients, their families, and the health care system. In the last decade, the conceptualization model that has received the most support from the literature has described 2 domains of NS: the expressive deficit (EXP), which includes blunted affect and alogia, and the motivational deficit (MAP), which includes avolition, asociality, and anhedonia. However, different confirmatory factor-analytic studies suggest that the bi-dimensional model may not capture the complexity of this construct, which could be better defined by the 5-factor model. To date no study exploiting innovative tools and state of the art assessment instruments has yet been conducted to evaluate the NS structure stability over time.
Objectives: The aim of this study was to investigate the stability of the latent structure of NS in subjects with SCZ.

Methods: NS were assessed in 612 subjects with SCZ using the Brief Negative Symptom Scale (BNSS) at the baseline and after 4-year follow-up. A network invariance analysis was conducted for the data collected longitudinally.
Results: Results showed that the BNSS' items aggregated to form 5 distinct domains (avolition, asociality, blunted affect, alogia and anhedonia). The result of the network invariance test indicated that the network structure remained unchanged over time (network invariance test = 0.13; p = 0.169) while its overall strength decreased significantly (6.28 baseline, 5.79 at follow-up; global strength invariance test = 0.48; p = 0.016).
Conclusions: The results of this study show how the construct of NS can be better explained by the 5 individual negative symptoms and that this model is almost stable over time. Therefore the 2-dimensional model may be insufficient to describe the characteristics of NS. This data is of important relevance with consequent implications in the study of pathophysiological mechanisms and the development of targeted treatments for NS.

Disclosure of Interest: None Declared

EPP0270

"You can't put your head down like an ostrich" - Emotional experiences associated to clozapine treatment protocol reported by patients with schizophrenia seen in a Brazilian university specialized service: a clinical-qualitative study

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Introduction: Understanding the psychological meanings of a rigorous protocol for introducing a drug to patients is a challenge of emotional management for clinical professionals. Clozapine is an effective drug for patients with schizophrenia resistant to treatment with first and second-generation antipsychotics. This medication has agranulocytosis as an important side effect. The medication protocol requires frequent blood draws to monitor any effect on blood cells. Investigating patients' emotional perceptions about the experience with this procedure was the triggering question of our study.
Objectives: To interpret emotional/symbolic meanings attributed by patients with schizophrenia to the protocol of introduction of clozapine in follow-up at a specialized university service.
Methods: Clinical-qualitative design of Turato. Semi-directed interviews with open-ended questions in-depth were conducted face-to-face with participants using clozapine. Closed sample by the theoretical information saturation criterion described by Fontanella. Data were treated by Faria-Schutzer's Clinical-Qualitative Content Analysis, employing psychodynamic concepts of the theoretical framework of Medical Psychology.
Results: From the analysis of nine patients, three categories emerged: 1) "Anyway, I come here to stay alive": frequent blood collections of the protocol seem to have a good impact on patient's adherence to treatment; 2) To re-signify a psychiatric illness: the protocol reinforcing an embodiment of a medical diagnosis; 3) "It is a very big precaution": the protocol as real and emotional support to deal with the possibility of serious side effects.
Conclusions: Although blood collection is a repetitive experience for patients, such a routine does not mean that the procedure brings symbolizations that are more charged than the disease itself. Patients can benefit from the commitment to attend blood collection frequently, as it removes them from possible social isolation, allowing social interaction; it brings the perception of emotional security due to the commitment to the clinical team. These benefits can lead the patient to develop new meanings for their life condition. Future qualitative research can be conducted to study the meanings of medical protocols in other diagnostic situations.

Disclosure of Interest: None Declared

EPP0271

Treatment of comorbid anxiety symptoms and insomnia in patients with schizophrenia: A review of Pros and Cons.

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Introduction: Recent studies report a prevalence of comorbid anxiety disorder of 38% and 80% of sleep disorders in schizophrenia. Insomnia has been associated with worsening of psychopathological symptoms and increased hospitalization rates.
Objectives: The aim of our work was to review mechanisms of action and the use of benzodiazepines, GABAergic drugs and melatonin for the treatment of anxiety and insomnia in schizophrenia.
Methods: We carried out a narrative review of studies focusing on the treatment of anxiety disorders and insomnia in schizophrenia through PubMed and Google Scholar (2002-September 2022). The use of benzodiazepines, GABAergic drugs and melatonin in schizophrenia are discussed, illustrating them with case reports.
Results: A total of 32 studies were included. (A)Benzodiazepines (BZD) work facilitating the inhibitory actions of gamma-aminobutyric acid (GABA) by binding GABA type A receptors. The beneficial effect of combined use of antipsychotics and BZD is controversial (cognitive complications, sedation, overdosing, substance use, etc). (B)GABAergic drugs: gabapentin (GP) and pregabalin (PG) (structurally related molecules), have no direct GABAergic action and act inhibiting voltage-gated calcium channels. The efficacy of GP and PG in the treatment of anxiety symptoms in schizophrenia is understudied. Positive effects of GP in schizophrenia suffering from restless legs syndrome receiving