
CAN ALPHA 1 GLYCOPROTEIN BE CONSIDERED AS A MARKER OF NEGATIVE SYMPTOMS IN SCHIZOPHRENIA PATIENTS?

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INTRODUCTION: Recently, a renaissance of interest in 'negative symptoms' as emotional withdrawal or blunted affect, has occurred. Some investigators believe that these symptoms are important indicators of outcome, of response to treatment and of a distinct underlying pathologic process.

Research on the negative-symptom syndrome in schizophrenia has been handicapped until recently.

AIMS: This research aims at studying whether acute phase proteins, precisely, Alpha1-glycoprotein, can be considered as a marker of negative-symptom in Schizophrenia.

METHODS: 29 chronic schizophrenics were assessed by the Positive and Negative Syndrome Scale (PANSS). A routine blood test including Alpha1-glycoprotein levels was carried out.

RESULTS: Alpha1-glycoprotein shows a positive correlation, according to Pearson correlation coefficient, with the Negative Scale at an almost significant level ($p=.05$), and at a significant level in the following items, Blunted affect ($p=.03$), Passive/apathetic Social Withdrawal ($p=.01$) of the Negative spectrum and Poor Attention ($p=.02$) of the General Psychopathology Scale.

CONCLUSIONS: There is a significant correlation with two Negative variables and an almost significant one, spite of the small sample, with the Negative Scale. Further studies with bigger samples are needed in order to consider alpha1-glycoprotein as a schizophrenia negative psychopathology marker.