

IDENTIFICATION OF THE OCCUPATIONAL ROLES OF SCHIZOPHRENIA PATIENTS

Tatiane Grigolatto, Jaime Hallak, Marcos Hortes Nisihara, João Paulo Machado-de-Souza, José Alexandre Crippa, Jair Licio Ferreira-Santos
Faculty of Medicine/ University São Paulo, Ribeirão Preto/ São Paulo, Brazil

Introduction: Schizophrenia is a severe mental disorder that demands specific and constant care for patients and support for the family. The disorder may directly affect the acquisition of occupational roles, understood as those productive roles that define most daily routines and which enable the orientation of attitudes according to context. **Objective:** To identify the occupational profile through the application of the Role Checklist in a sample of patients diagnosed with schizophrenia attended at an outpatient clinic and the psychiatric ward of a general hospital and to compare these data to other validated assessment instruments available (The quality of life scale: an instrument for rating the schizophrenic deficit syndrome, Calgary Depression Scale for Schizophrenia, Brazil Economic Classification Criteria, Independent Living Skills Assessment Tool, Brief Psychiatric Rating Scale). **Method:** Twenty-one schizophrenia patients responsive to the usual antipsychotic treatment and aged between 19 and 37 years (25.67 ± 5.29) took part in the study. Participants attended a single session in which all the assessment instruments were completed. **Results:** Although only two patients performed the occupational role of worker at the time of the evaluation, 71.4% (15) gave this role a great importance. The occupational roles of worker, friend, and household correlated with total quality of life ($p < 0.05$); the role of friend also correlated with the social network factor ($p < 0.001$). **Conclusion:** Given the importance of evaluating the occupational roles that were either lost or maintained after the onset of the disorder in order to direct occupational therapeutic interventions, this study is relevant because of the scarce literature available on the topic and of the absence of Occupational Therapy studies with behavior systematization in these conditions. **Contribution to practice:** This study provides resources for future interventions in the population involved, in addition to emphasizing the importance of further research concerning Occupational Therapy instruments applicable to mental health, especially in regard to the specificities of this condition during hospitalization.