

Relationship between creativity and psychiatric disorders

Tuesday, September 24, 2024 12:30 PM (20 minutes)

Introduction. Creativity is the capacity to conceive original ideas, solutions, and new concepts, this includes divergent thinking, defined as the ability to think outside of established patterns¹. Previous studies had examined the connection between creativity and schizophrenia, but the results were heterogeneous and contradictory².

In this study, we aim to explore the association between creativity and psychiatric disorders using the Divergent Thinking Test (DTT).

Methods. 20 patients with schizophrenia (SCZ), 28 with psychiatric disorders other than schizophrenia (PDotS) and 38 healthy subjects (HS) performed the DTT, which includes five factor scores: fluidity (FL), flexibility (FS), originality (O), elaboration (E), title (T). Linear models were used for comparisons between groups.

Results. The results showed that SCZ patients performed significantly worse on DTT-total when compared HS [(mean±SE) SCZ vs HS: 72.37±4.83 vs 88.47±3.40, $p=.027$], with no other comparisons yielding significance (PDotS vs. HS: $p=.273$; SCZ vs. PDotS: $p=.775$).

Conclusions. Regarding the type of diagnosis, performance on the DTT task is significantly lower in schizophrenic patients than in patients with another psychiatric disorder, suggesting the existence of a negative association between creativity and schizophrenia.

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Primary author: Dr DE SANDI, Angelica (Foundation IRCCS Ca' Granda Ospedale Policlinico Maggiore, Milan, Italy)

Co-authors: Dr D'URSO, Giordano (University of Napoli "Federico II", Naples, Italy); Dr AIELLO, Edoardo Nicolò (IRCCS Istituto Auxologico Italiano, Milan, Italy); Dr CALLONI, Mariachiara (University of Milan, Milan, Italy); Dr MELLACE, Denise (University of Milan, Milan, Italy); Dr MARFOLI, Angelica (University of Milan, Milan, Italy); Dr DEL PRETE-FERRUCCI, Gaia (University of Bath, Bath, United Kingdom); Dr RUGGIERO, Fabiana (Foundation IRCCS Ca' Granda Ospedale Policlinico Maggiore, Milan, Italy); Dr MAMELI, Francesca (Foundation IRCCS Ca' Granda Ospedale Policlinico Maggiore, Milan, Italy); Dr ZIRONE, Eleonora (Foundation IRCCS Ca' Granda Ospedale Policlinico Maggiore, Milan, Italy); Prof. POLETTI, Barbara (IRCCS Istituto Auxologico Italiano, Milan, Italy); Prof. BARBIERI, Sergio (S.C. Neurofisiopatologia, Fondazione IRCCS Ca' Granda, Milano); Prof. PRIORI, Alberto (ASST-Santi Paolo e Carlo University Hospital, Milan, Italy); Prof. FERRUCCI, Roberta (University of Milan, Milan, Italy)

Presenter: Dr DE SANDI, Angelica (Foundation IRCCS Ca' Granda Ospedale Policlinico Maggiore, Milan, Italy)

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