

Author's Accepted Manuscript

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Floor A. van Dijk, Frederike Schirmbeck, Lieuwe de Haan



PII: S0165-1781(17)30577-2
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.psychres.2017.11.011>
Reference: PSY10958

To appear in: *Psychiatry Research*

Received date: 4 May 2017
Revised date: 21 September 2017
Accepted date: 3 November 2017

Cite this article as: Floor A. van Dijk, Frederike Schirmbeck and Lieuwe de Haan, A longitudinal analysis of the effects of neuroticism and extraversion on subjective well-being in patients with schizophrenia, *Psychiatry Research*, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.psychres.2017.11.011>

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A longitudinal analysis of the effects of neuroticism and extraversion on subjective well-being in patients with schizophrenia

Floor A. van Dijk^a, Frederike Schirmbeck^a, Lieuwe de Haan^a, for Genetic Risk and Outcome of Psychosis (GROUP) Investigators

^a Department Early Psychosis, Academic Medical Centre of the University of Amsterdam, Amsterdam, the Netherlands

Abstract

One in five patients with a psychotic disorder has persistent low subjective well-being (SWB), which is associated with a poorer prognosis. In schizophrenia patients, personality traits are associated with SWB. The present study aims to evaluate whether neuroticism and extraversion influence SWB in patients with psychotic disorder and healthy controls over the course of time. In 186 patients and 126 healthy control subjects, SWB was measured with the Subjective Well-being under Neuroleptics-20 (SWN) scale at baseline, three years and six years. We used the Five-Factor Inventory to assess neuroticism and extraversion. Mixed model analyses were conducted to investigate moderating associations of positive, negative and depressive symptoms, cannabis use, illness insight, weak social support and antipsychotic medication in patients. Higher neuroticism and lower extraversion were associated with lower SWB over six years in both groups. Personality traits did not have a differential effect on the course of SWB over time. In patients, stable low SWB was found in 15.1% of subjects. This group scored highest on neuroticism and lowest on extraversion compared to subjects with an increase in SWB or a stable high SWB. Our findings underline that personality traits are correlated to subjective well-being regardless of psychotic or depressive symptoms

Keywords

Subjective well-being under neuroleptic treatment, non-affective psychotic disorders, personality traits, cohort study

Correspondence: Floor A. van Dijk, MD f.a.vandijk@amc.uva.nl, Department of Psychiatry, Academic Medical Centre, Postbus 22660 1100 DD Amsterdam. Tel: +31(0)208913600, fax: +31(0)208913701

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