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Detection of early psychotic symptoms: validation of the Spanish version of the “Symptom Onset in Schizophrenia (SOS) inventory”

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Abstract

The period of subclinical signs that precedes the onset of psychosis is referred to as the prodrome or high-risk mental state. The “Symptom Onset in Schizophrenia (SOS) inventory” is an instrument to characterize and date the initial symptoms of a psychotic illness. The present study aims to provide reliability and validity data for clinical and research use of the Spanish version of the SOS. Thirty-six participants with a first-episode of psychosis meeting DSM-IV criteria for schizophrenia/schizoaffective/schizophreniform disorder were administered the translated SOS and other clinical assessments. The internal validity, intrarater and interrater reliability were studied. We found strong interrater reliability. To detect the presence/absence of prodromal symptoms, Kappa coefficients ranges were between 0.8-0.7. Similarly, the raters obtained an excellent level of agreement regarding the onset of each symptom and the duration of symptoms until first treatment (intraclass correlation coefficients between 0.9-1.0). Cronbach's alpha was 0.9-1.0 for all the items. The interrater reliability and concurrent validity were also excellent in both cases. This study provides robust psychometric properties of the Spanish version of the SOS. The translated version is adequate in terms of good internal validity, intrarater and interrater reliability, and is time-efficacy as the original version.

Key words

Schizophrenia; First-episodes psychosis; Early Psychotic Symptoms; Assessment; Early identification; Duration of untreated psychosis

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