

PERCEIVED NEGATIVE ATTITUDE ASSOCIATES WITH PSYCHOTIC EXPERIENCES

R.K.R. Salokangas¹, M. Heinimaa², J. Klosterkötter³, S. Ruhrmann³, H. Graf von Reventlow⁴, D. Linsze⁵, P. Dingemans⁵, M. Birchwood⁶, P. Patterson⁶

¹*Department of Psychiatry, ²University of Turku, Turku, Finland, ³University of Cologne, Cologne, ⁴Ruhr-University Bochum, Bochum, Germany, ⁵University of Amsterdam, Amsterdam, The Netherlands, ⁶University of Birmingham, Birmingham, UK*

Objectives: Risk of psychosis is defined by the presence of positive psychotic-like symptoms. In clinical examination, easily detectable perceived negative attitude of other people may also indicate risk of psychosis.

Methods: A random sample of psychiatric outpatients completed the PROD screen including questions on interpersonal relationships, functioning and subtle specific (psychotic-like) symptoms. Vulnerability to psychosis (VTP) was assessed employing specific symptoms of the PROD screen. Current risk of psychosis (CROP) was assessed using the BSABS and the SIPS/SOPS. The CROP patients were followed up for 18 months and transition to psychosis was detected. The association between perceived negative attitude of others and reported psychotic symptoms was tested in a random sample drawn from the general population.

Results: In all, 790 outpatients were screened. Of them, 219 VTP and 55 CROP patients were identified. By follow-up, six CROP patients (11 %) had made the transition to psychosis. Vulnerability to psychosis associated with all items of interpersonal relationships and functioning. However, current risk and transition to psychosis associated only with subjectively reported negative attitude of others. In a general population sample, negative attitude of others strongly associated with reported life-time psychotic symptoms conforming thus results obtained from a patient sample.

Conclusion: The subjective experience of negative attitude of other people towards oneself associates with experience of psychotic symptoms and may predict more severe psychotic development. The association between perceived negative attitude and occurrence of subtle psychotic symptoms seems to be detectable both in general and patient populations.