

SOCIAL COGNITION IN SCHIZOPHRENIA

Anja Vaskinn (organizer)

Individuals with schizophrenia are characterized by deficits in social cognition when compared to healthy control persons. Social cognition is an umbrella term covering domains such as emotion perception, theory of mind, attributional bias, and social perception. Social cognition has been shown to be related to everyday life functioning in schizophrenia. Because social cognition is central to the disorder and impacts on functioning, several new treatment programs targeting social cognition have been developed during the last years.

This symposium will review the literature of the mediating role of social cognition on the relationship between neurocognition and functioning in schizophrenia. Three different social cognitive treatment programs will be described. Training in Affect Recognition (TAR) was the first to be developed. Its method and rationale will be presented along with data showing that social cognitive deficits are remediable through the use of TAR. Cognitive behavioural therapy (CBT) in schizophrenia has traditionally focused on reducing the emotional component of symptoms through psychoeducation and modification of dysfunctional beliefs.

The symposium will demonstrate how social cognitive deficits can be integrated when doing case conceptualizations and cognitive reframing as part of CBT. Social Cognition and Interaction Training (SCIT) is a treatment program that was developed to improve both social cognition and social functioning among persons with

schizophrenia. The training program will be described and the outline of a new study presented.

Authors:

Vaskinn, Anja; Oslo (organizer): Neurocognition, social cognition and functioning in schizophrenia : A mediation model

Frommann, Nicole; Düsseldorf: Training of affect recognition: An approach to remediate social cognitive dysfunction in schizophrenia

Bliksted, Vibeke Fuglsang; Aarhus: OPUS, Clinic for young people with schizophrenia. Social Cognitive Deficits in First-Episode Schizophrenia: Implications for CBT

Schaub, Daniela; PhD student, psychologist, Bochum: Social cognition and interacting training(SCIT) for patients with schizophrenia.