

Abstract

A modified verbal learning task, with random and blocked conditions, was used to characterize the learning and memory impairment in acute and chronic schizophrenic patients and to evaluate the effect of semantic organization on verbal learning and storage function associated with this impairment. Acute ($n = 20$) and chronic ($n = 20$) schizophrenic patients recruited in this study performed worse than 40 demographically matched controls in either random or blocked condition. The results suggest that both acute and chronic schizophrenic patients have similar learning and memory profiles. They exhibited encoding and retrieval deficits and normal rate of forgetting. Semantic organization is considered to be helpful for the chronic schizophrenic patients rather than the acute schizophrenic patients since their learning and memory were significantly improved.