

Abstracts

The relative predictability of planning ability and visual constructional ability to visual memory performance in schizophrenics were investigated by copying the Rey-Osterrieth Complex Figure. Twenty-five patients who met DSM-IV criteria for schizophrenic were matched with 25 patients who met DSM-IV criteria for depression and 25 normal adults. Schizophrenic patients were found to have a significant impairment in immediate and delayed spontaneous recall in visual memory, planning, and global visual perception. Significant correlations were found between aspects of visual memory, planning abilities and visual constructional ability. Planning ability was found a better predictor of visual memory deficits than visual constructional ability in schizophrenic patients from regression analysis, while visual constructional ability was a better predictor than planning ability in depression patients. Our results suggested that a differential mechanisms behind the memory problems in schizophrenia, and that planning ability may contribute to the memory impairments in schizophrenics, which is subserved by the prefrontal area.