

Aberrant salience and its relationships with hallucinations and delusions in the early phase of
antipsychotic treatment: An experience sampling study

Submitted by

Anson Chau Kai Chun
(Student ID: 1155059289)

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The Chinese University of Hong Kong
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Abstract

The current study aimed to investigate aberrant salience (AS) and its relationships with hallucinations and delusions. These relationships were tested in a sample of 16 in-patients with acute psychosis under initial two-week antipsychotic treatment. Sixteen patients with acute psychosis were assessed seven times a day for two weeks using Experience Sampling Methodology (ESM). ESM assessed momentary experiences of AS, hallucinations and delusion dimensions. Cross-sectionally, level of AS was associated with level of hallucinations (auditory and visual) and delusion dimensions. Although there was no significant improvement in AS over time, change in AS was moderated by antipsychotic dosage. Moreover, over time, there was an increase in association between level of AS and level of visual hallucination, and between level of AS and level of delusional conviction. These findings supported that level of AS was associated with the severity of psychosis or positive symptoms in schizophrenia spectrum disorders.

Keywords: aberrant salience, hallucinations, delusions, psychosis, experience sampling methodology