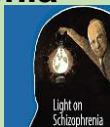


In poor health but not incapable: A cross sectional study on decision making capacity for Advance directive and Nominated representative in patients with schizophrenia

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INTRODUCTION

- Every person, including a person with mental illness shall be considered to have capacity to make decisions.
- Few studies shows persons with schizophrenia has capacity to make decisions and few others show they do perform inadequately and does not have capacity^{1,2}.
- Hence this study aims to assess the decision making capacity for advance directive and nominated representative of patients with schizophrenia and the factors affecting decision making capacity.

METHODS

- Cross sectional study
- 6 months duration
- Conducted at tertiary care centre
- 96 participants
- Both IP and OP patients who did not have any acute symptoms
- Mac CAT CR and IPS guidance document

Step 1

• The subjects were recruited after obtaining written informed consent from them and their care giver

Step 2

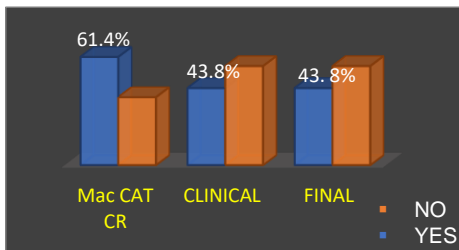
• Sociodemographic details, Past treatment history, duration of illness, PANSS, cognitive functions- working memory, processing speed and visual motor integration skills.

Step 3

• Details about illness, the treatment options available, concept of advance directive and nominated representative was explained
 • Decision making capacity was assessed using Mac CAT CR (15mins) and IPS guidance document clinically (30-45mins) by two independent psychiatrists

RESULTS:

Fig: Proportion of patients having capacity



Factors affecting decision making capacity	Odds ratio (OR)	Correct ed p value
Male	6.182	0.015*
Unemployed	1.334	0.015*
Working memory (DST)	1.286	0.015*
Processing speed (DSST)	1.082	0.015*
Visuospatial functioning (BGT)	2.375	0.015*

CONCLUSION

- This study Shows that patients with schizophrenia has decision making capacity for advance directive and nominated representative and their symptom severity didn't affect it.
- In India as per MHCA 2017, psychiatrists can routinely include assessment of decision making capacity using IPS guidance document clinically and document their advance directive and nominated representative.

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