

Purpose

Literature suggests that schizophrenic patients are impaired in facial emotion recognition (Aguiar, 2008; Bediou et al., 2005; Bigelow et al., 2006; Martin, Baudouin, Tiberghien & Franck, 2005). The purpose of this study was to analyze if these deficits are related to psychological well-being and whether they tend to be more associated to positive or negative affect.

Methods

▪ **Participants:** 30 Portuguese persons diagnosed with Schizophrenia (Age Mean= 41.6, SD = 9.32; 90% males).

▪ **Instruments:**

Emotion recognition: 30 morphed faces with different 6 emotional intensities (60%, 80% and 100%) of happiness, sadness, anger, fear and disgust. For each morph, participants had to decide which of the 5 emotions was being expressed (Aguiar, 2008; Aguiar, Queirós & Rocha, 2006).

Psychological well-being: To assess psychological well-being we used the Affect Balance Scale (ABS), which is a widely used scale measuring both positive and negative affect (Bradburn, 1969). The Affect Balance Scale is a 10-item rating scale containing five statements reflecting positive feelings and five statements reflecting negative feelings, which is administered to determine overall psychological well-being at a given point in time. The questions are presented in a yes or no format. Respondents are asked by an interviewer to focus on feelings during the past few weeks and indicate a positive (yes) or negative (no) response to each of the scale items. The set of ten questions can be administered in less than 5 to 10 minutes. Scores range from 0 (lowest affect balance) to 10 (highest affect balance).

▪ **Data Analysis:** Pearson correlational analysis were computed in the SPSS 15.0 in order to determine the relationships between variables.

Results and Conclusions

Table 1. Pearson correlations between emotion recognition and psychological well-being

		Affect Balance Scale(ABS) Domains		
		Positive Affect	Negative Affect	General Psychological Well-being
Facial Emotion Recognition Test	Total Score	0.252-n.s.	0.391*	0.388*
	Happiness	0.309-n.s.	-0.363*	0.402*
	Sadness	0.160-n.s.	-0.041-n.s.	0.115-n.s.
	Anger	0.117-n.s.	-0.386*	0.310-n.s.
	Disgust	0.044-n.s.	-0.201-n.s.	0.152-n.s.
	Fear	0.154-n.s.	-0.160-n.s.	0.187-n.s.
	100%	0.244-n.s.	-0.276-n.s.	0.311-n.s.
	80%	0.247-n.s.	-0.433*	0.412-n.s.
	60%	0.156-n.s.	-0.279-n.s.	0.264-n.s.

*p<0.05 **p<0.01 n.s. – non significant

There were found significant correlations between facial emotion recognition and general psychological well-being. Negative affect was significantly associated with the total score of the facial emotion recognition experiment and with the recognition of happy and anger emotions.

Emotion recognition seems to be related to the experience of psychological well-being. Particularly, negative affect experiences seem to be at least partially regulated by mechanisms of recognition of other people's emotions.

Bibliography

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