

Abstract

This thesis is devoted to cognitive functioning and quality of life in persons with schizophrenia and substance induced psychosis (SIP). The main aim of the thesis was to find out whether there is any cognitive impairment in persons with SIP and whether there are any differences in cognition between persons with SIP and schizophrenia. Further aims were to study substance use-related effects on cognition and to study the quality of life in persons with SIP. The sample consisted of three groups of participants: persons with SIP (n = 21), with schizophrenia (n = 21) and healthy persons (n = 21) which were matched by demographic variables. Cognitive functions of all the groups were assessed by the MATRICS Consensus Cognitive Battery (MCCB) and the Q-LES-Q-SF questionnaire was used in persons with SIP to assess subjectively perceived quality of life. The results show that slight cognitive deficit (-1SD) can be observed in persons with SIP only in the domains of speed of processing and working memory; they differed significantly from healthy persons only in the working memory domain. Compared to persons with schizophrenia, the SIP group had significantly better cognitive performance, specifically in the domains of speed of processing, verbal and visual memory and problem solving. Therefore, the results indicate that cognitive functions in persons with SIP are significantly spared when compared to persons with schizophrenia and their performance is almost at the level of healthy persons. The number of SIP episodes had the strongest negative effect on cognition in SIP, whereas variables associated with substance use such as lifelong time of use or time of abstinence had only partial effect. The quality of life in persons with schizophrenia and SIP did not differ and in persons with SIP, better cognitive functions had a negative effect on quality of life. The results are interpreted at the end of the thesis and further directions of research are suggested. Results of this thesis are, also thanks to the sample size, a unique and important contribution to the topic of cognition in SIP in our environment which may help with better differential diagnostics.