Abstract

Psychotic experiences occur across various diagnostic groups and also among healthy population, but current methods are usually suitable only for specific diagnoses. This thesis presents a new method – the Questionnaire for psychotic experiences (QPE), which is independent on the type of diagnosis.

In the theoretical part different types of hallucinations and delusions will be presented, including little studied sensed presence. The appearance of those phenomena among various illnesses will be described, as well as among non-clinical population. We will present currently used methods that map psychotic experiences and we will compare them with QPE. At the end of this part the Questionnaire for psychotic experiences will be introduced together with current findings about the psychometric properties of its English version.

The research part will focus on assessing reliability and validity of the Czech version of QPE. 146 participants with schizophrenia spectrum disorder and 147 healthy individuals took part in the study. The reliability of the questionnaire was examined using test-retest, interrater and internal consistency. Construct and criterion validity were assessed as well. We also tested the factor structure of the questionnaire and its sensitivity and specificity. The results show the questionnaire as a reliable method, the value of measured coefficients for all types of reliability did not go under 0,82. The criterion validity was also confirmed. When assessing construct validity, all expected correlations were significant. The examination of factor structure showed three existing factors, that correspond to expected subscales. The questionnaire seems to have very good psychometric properties, still we recommend broadening the study sample to individuals with other diagnoses. Especially, we recommend the increase of participants that took part in the test-retest part.

Key words:

Questionnaire for Psychotic Experiences, hallucinations, delusions, schizophrenia, reliability, validity