

## Abstract

The relation between the intracellular parasite *Toxoplasma gondii* and schizophrenia was studied and confirmed in several studies. There are proofs that latent toxoplasmosis deteriorates the course of schizophrenia. The goal of this study was to clarify whether there are differences between subjectively perceived quality of life of infected and non-infected psychiatric patients. We tested men and women from the PCP treated for the diagnosis of schizophrenia, who undertook serology blood tests for detection of anamnestic *T. gondii* antibodies. Patients also filled out two questionnaires that assessed subjectively perceived quality of life – SOS-10 and WHOQOL-BREF. Patients filled out these questionnaires twice, both at the start of the study before coming to psychiatric therapeutical institution and after one year. During the first testing were the questionnaires filled out by 171 persons, after one year by 108 persons. Based on the results of these tests we found out that latent toxoplasmosis had a negative impact on subjectively perceived quality of life of schizophrenia patients, particularly on infected women. On the other hand, the quality of life of non-infected patients improved during one year. The effect of toxoplasmosis on quality of life was gender related, which could be explained by already observed difference between long-term stress effect on men and women. We also attempted to predict toxoplasma seropositivity using particular questions from our quality of life tests with Tree analysis. However, the method was not found to be sufficiently significant and did not manage to identify infected individuals.

Keywords: *Toxoplasma gondii*, latent toxoplasmosis, schizophrenia, quality of life, WHOQOL-BREF, SOS-10