METHODS: Patients diagnosed with schizophrenia (n=22) or alcohol use disorder (n=20) and matched healthy controls (n=34) were assessed on a multiple-choice version of a proverb comprehension task and on standard measures of response inhibition, working memory, divided attention and cognitive flexibility.

RESULTS: Schizophrenia patients chose less frequently the correct (abstract-meaningful) and more often the concretic (both meaningless and less meaningful) proverb interpretation than alcohol-dependent patients and healthy controls. They also selected more abstract-meaningless response alternatives and showed impaired performance across all assessed executive domains relative to healthy subjects. Divided attention and working memory, in particular, were related to proverb comprehension in the schizophrenia group. Furthermore, negative symptoms were associated with the number of abstract-meaningful responses and positive symptoms with the number of concretic responses in the proverbs task.

CONCLUSIONS: Taken together, schizophrenia patients showed a specific pattern of proverb comprehension impairments which was differentially related to executive control subdomains and positive/negative symptoms. These findings might contribute to the development of new treatments specifically targeting pragmatic language impairments which have been shown to adversely affect social functioning in schizophrenia patients.

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274 – ANGER AS AN EMOTION-SPECIFIC DEFICIT IN DUAL-CHANNEL EMOTION RECOGNITION IN HAN SCHIZOPHRENIC PATIENTS

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Introduction: Patients with schizophrenia perform significantly worse than controls on almost all measures of each nonverbal channel. Anger and fear were shown to have much lower acceptable levels in Chinese culture using an emotion recognition task made of multiethnic models. As a result, the previous conclusions of fear as the most distinguishable emotional-specific deficit in schizophrenic patients might be obscured in Han population.

Methods: A pilot study was proceeded beforehand to establish an effective tool for evaluating nonverbal accuracy (the Diagnostic Analysis of Nonverbal Accuracy 2-Taiwan version, DANVA2-TW), and then followed by formal study comparing the differences among 26 schizophrenic patients and 39 normal controls. Five subtests from WAIS-III, structured interview and self-report symptom checking list were also given to each subject. Data were analyzed by correlation analyses, analyses of variance, t-tests and regression analyses.

Results: Schizophrenic patients displayed less accurate performance than the normal controls in negative emotions, and performed significantly worse than normal subjects in recognizing anger emotions within both facial expression and prosodic channels, and fear in the prosodic channel.

Conclusions: A Deficit in emotion recognition in schizophrenia is universal across race, culture and perception modalities. However, emotion-specific deficits might present in different culture backgrounds. Anger recognition is a potential emotional-specific deficit in the Han population. A parallel test made of pure Han faces and Mandarin ones could simulate the real environment of Han society and provide a more accurate and delicate measurement of emotion recognition deficits.

References