

Auditory brainstem responses of schizophrenic patients in a Nigerian mental health clinic

Olawale Ogundiran (1), Olujimi Odetoyinbo (2), James Enajero Tobih (1), Adedayo Olugbenga Olausun (1), Benjamin Adekunle Eegunranti (1)

(1) LAUTECH Teaching Hospital, Osogbo, Osun State - Nigeria, (2) Afe Babalola University, Ado Ekiti, Ekiti State - Nigeria

Objectives: This study sought to find out if there would be hearing loss among schizophrenic patients with active auditory hallucination. It also sought to find a significant difference among the study group and the control group.

Background: Schizophrenia is a mental disorder characterized by incoherent or illogical thoughts, bizarre behavior and speech, delusions or hallucinations such as hearing voices. The prevalence rate of schizophrenia is about 1.1 percent of the population over the age of 18 years old, while the average age of onset is 18 and 25 years old in male and female respectively. This is considered the most critical age in social and vocational development. Most schizophrenic patients have a low socioeconomic status but this is not because schizophrenia preferentially targets the poor but mainly because it brings about drastic impairment in social and occupational skills.

Methods: The 31 consecutive participants (study group: schizophrenic patients) who met with the inclusion criteria were recruited into the Department of ENT LAUTECH Teaching Hospital, Osogbo from Department of Psychiatry. Otoscopy and hearing assessment were done for all the participants and data were retrieved from their case files. The same procedures were done for the control group (31 participants). MAICO MB 11 ABR was used to determine the participants' hearing thresholds. Analysis of data was done through SPSS 16

Results: Twenty-six out of thirty-one (83.9%) had abnormal ABR bilaterally while only four (12.9%) were abnormal on the right and five (16.1%) on the left in the control group. Also, mild hearing loss was prevalent in both groups bilaterally. Lastly, there is a significant difference between the study group and the control group bilaterally: RE: $t=6.062$, $df=60$, $p=0.000$, LE: $t=6.198$, $df=60$, $p=0.000$.

Conclusions: The collaboration of specialists in the treatment of schizophrenia holds a satisfying prognosis.