

The authors struggle with their interpretation of the data on Black patients since they are obliged to conclude that the differences between DUP in White and Black patients may be due to 'ethnic variations in the clinical presentation of psychotic illness'.<sup>1</sup> In fact, they go so far as to report that 'mode of psychosis onset, as a variable, tends to plague studies exploring DUP as its insidious form has been shown to be associated with prolonged DUP'.<sup>1</sup> In other words, they admit that acute conditions present with a briefer DUP, which is the reverse of the conclusion they draw in their opening paragraph.

It is time that early intervention service advocates recognise that DUP does not predict outcome – mode of onset predicts DUP and outcome. If Ghali and his co-authors were to do so, their recommendations might well be different. Based on the data in this paper, one could ask, if Black patients are presenting substantially more often with acute-onset (and potentially good-prognosis) psychoses, is this, in part, because of a biological factor such as marijuana misuse and should we allow such patients some days free of medication after admission to see whether the illness goes into remission? The early intervention approach would point us in the opposite direction, but rapid intervention with pharmaceuticals runs the danger of muddying the diagnosis and worsening outcome from illness.

**Richard Warner**, MB, DPM, Colorado Recovery, 2818 13th Street, Boulder, CO 80304, USA. Email: rwarner@coloradorecovery.com

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## References

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extra

## Speed limit!

Shabbir Amanullah

Children often come out with the most interesting and often unique interpretation of their environment and interactions with others. Some are in reaction to a specific situation whereas others are often carefully thought of . . . albeit in the child's own unique way.

While house-hunting in San Jose with my 4-year-old niece, my sister was driving through a rather busy neighborhood that had clearly posted speed limit signs. Having come off the motorway, the drop in speed was sudden and Zaara, who was up until that time watching the trees and cars go by her window, looked at her mum intently. Noticing Zaara's intense stare through the rear view mirror, my sister asked 'Is everything OK?'. Zaara seemed rather cross and didn't reply the first time round. 'Is everything OK, Zaara?', my sister asked a second time. In a slow deliberate tone, Zaara said: 'Why did you slow down? Go faster'. 'We can't', my sister explained, 'There are speed limits in different areas and we have to follow them'. There was no further discussion and through tours of different houses Zaara seemed busy with her toys and looking around the places they visited.

On returning home, she seemed tired and lost in her thoughts. While slowly chewing on her first spoonful of food, my sister came by with the second spoonful. Zaara was still on her first spoonful and turned her head away. 'Come on Zaara, you have to finish up and go to bed', said my sister. Slowly turning her head to face her mum, Zaara replied in a firm tone: 'I cannot do that mum, there are speed limits!'

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