

AS19-03 - EYE MOVEMENT CORRELATES OF IMPAIRED FACIAL EMOTION RECOGNITION

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Introduction: Visual perception is a very important source of information about the human social environment. Gaze behavior reflects the perceptive processes during guided collection of data relevant for social cognition.

Objectives: Gaze behavior in subjects clinically at high risk of psychosis (CHR) and in schizophrenia patients (SZ).

Aims: Investigating the relationship between gaze behavior and social functioning.

Methods: CHR, SZ and healthy control (HC) subjects were asked to assess the emotional qualities (positive, negative, neutral) of faces. Visual scan paths were recorded with an SMI iView X™ Hi-Speed System (500 Hz). Functioning was assessed by two scales introduced by Cornblatt et al. (2007).

Results: Scan path parameters differed significantly between HC and SZ as well as CHR. Functioning was lower in both patient groups and correlated with gaze behavior.

Conclusions: Gaze behavior is already aberrant in risk states of psychosis and seems to have a significant impact on social functioning.