Association of Family History of Psychosis with Long-term Outcome in Schizophrenia – the Northern Finland Birth Cohort 1966 Study

J. Käkelä[1], J. Koskela[1], P. Juola[1], M. Isohanni[1], J. Veijola[1], E. Jääskeläinen[1], J. Miettunen[1]

[1]Department of Psychiatry, University of Oulu Institute of Clinical Medicine, Oulu, Finland

Introduction: We have previously investigated the association between family history of psychosis and long-term outcome in schizophrenia in a systematic review and found no studies that focused on social outcome.

Objectives: To study effect of family history on long-term occupational, social, clinical and global outcome in schizophrenia.

Aims: In this study we aimed to investigate how family history affects long-term occupational, social, clinical and global outcome in schizophrenia in a population-based cohort study.

Methods: Sixty nine persons with schizophrenia spectrum diagnosis from the Northern Finland Birth Cohort 1966 were examined at around 43 years of age, in average 17 years since onset of psychosis. A Strauss-Carpenter Outcome Scale –interview was conducted to gather information regarding occupational, social, clinical and global outcome. The family history of psychosis was examined based on register data and interviews.

Results: Seventeen (24.6%) of the schizophrenia cases had family history of psychosis. The presence of family history of psychosis did not associate statistically significantly to occupational (FH+ vs FH-: mean 24.9 vs. 28.4; p = 0.470), social (34.5 vs. 33.2; p = 0.811), clinical (29.9 vs. 33.4; p = 0.510) or global outcome (22.2 vs. 22.7; p = 0.827).

Conclusions: This was the first original study on effects of family history of psychosis on long-term social outcome in schizophrenia. We did not find statistically significant association between family history of psychosis and long-term outcome in schizophrenia. Since the number of subjects with family history of psychosis was quite low, a study with larger sample size is desirable.