

CLINICAL AND EXPERIMENTAL-PSYCHOLOGICAL STUDY OF PATIENTS WITH PARANOID SCHIZOPHRENIA WITH THE SYNDROME OF PSYCHIC AUTOMATISM

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The syndrome of psychic automatism (Кангинский-Clerambault's syndrome) is one of the most complicated syndromes in the psychopathology, including various, connected in conjunction symptoms of almost all psychic spheres. Undoubtedly, it is most often met in the frames of the schizophrenic psychosis. Clinical methods are mainly used (1,2) in the numerous studies devoted to this syndrome. Research works or papers in which orientated clinical and experimental-psychological methods for studying the disorders in the thinking and other psychic spheres of schizophrenic patients with the syndrome of psychic automatism are applied, are missing or almost lacking. The experimental-psychological conditions, "provoking" the display of the symptoms of psychic automatism are quite insufficiently studied.

The purpose of the present work is to study some psychopathological peculiarities of the thinking and memory of schizophrenic patients with the syndrome of psychic automatism by using a battery of psychological methods.

A total of 120 patients (59 females and 61 males) aged between 18 and 59 years and hospitalized in the Department of Psychiatry and Medical Psychology, Medical University, Varna were studied. The syndrome of psychic automatism was clinically proved in the schizophrenia course for 90 patients and 30 of the patients (control group) were diagnosed as schizophrenia, paranoid form, hallucinatory-paranoid syndrome. The patients with the syndrome of psychic automatism were divided into two clinical subgroups provisionally in accordance with T.A. Клумушева (1965): 47 patients with "early" and 43 ones with "late" psychic automatism syndrome. The following psychological methods were applied in parallel with the clinical examinations in the next sequence:

1. Test of learning of 10 words (according to С. Т. Рубинцайн, 1970, V. Ivanov's variant, 1976).
2. Subtraction (according to E. Kraepelin, 1985 cited after В. М. Блейхер, 1976).
3. Listing of 50 words (according to В. М. Блейхер, 1976).
4. Associative experiment (according to А. Г. Иванов-Смолен-

cku, 1933, V. Ivanov's variant, 1976).

5. Pictograma (according to A. P. Лурия, 1964, С. В. Лонгунова and S.Ya. Rubinstein's variant, 1972).

6. Grid-test (according to D. Bannister, 1965; F. Fransella, 1966).

The statistical processing was accomplished by means of alternative and variational analysis. The comparison and the discussion of the data within the groups as well as between the separate subgroups (early and late) psychic automatism and the control group enabled us to come to the following conclusions:

Both groups of patients with the syndrome of psychic automatism showed the typical schizophrenic disorders in the running and the structure of the thinking process as thus disorders are presented more manifestly in patients with "late" syndrome of psychic automatism. The methods supposing more intensive psychic (intellectual and emotional) strain activated the disorders of self-perception and self-awareness of own potentialities, which, on their part, "provoke" the rise of symptoms of psychic automatism. The disturbances of the self-perception of own psychic processes of patients with an "early" syndrome of psychic automatism are presented mainly by the origin of subjectively experienced difficulties and inhibition, accompanied by intellectual feelings like strangeness, uncertainty, surprise under the conditions of a high intensity of the intellectual activity. The disturbances of own "gnostic" feelings are interpreted by the patients with a "late" syndrome of psychic automatism as a result of a "forced", "alien" to the personality impact. An early displaying lability of a mental efficiency and an interrupting the capacity to work, blocking the purposefulness of the mental activity are registered in both groups of patients with the syndrome of psychic automatism and in control persons as well. The appearance of the symptoms of psychic automatism is facilitated under the conditions of a more intensive psychic strain in consequence of the activation of the disturbances of own "gnostic" feelings of the patients with the syndrome of psychic automatism.

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