

Poster presentation

## Toxoplasma gondii and schizophrenia

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### Background

Infectious agents may contribute to some cases of schizophrenia. In animals, *T. gondii* infection can alter behaviour and neurotransmitter function. Establishing the role of *T. gondii* in etiopathogenesis of schizophrenia might lead to new medications for its prevention and treatment. The aim of this study is to evaluate the relation between schizophrenia and *T. gondii* in Iranian patients.

### Materials and methods

Serum samples of 230 cases of schizophrenia and 230 of a matched control group were examined for *Toxoplasma* antibodies (IgG, IgM) by Elisa method. Data were analysed by Chi square and Odd ratio, and p value less than 0.05 was determined statistically significant.

### Results

41 (17.8%) out of 230 patient cases and 17 (7.3%) out of 230 control cases were antibody positive. The difference was statistically meaningful. There were no differences between age groups and both genders.

### Discussion

These findings indicate that *T. gondii* may play a role in the etiopathogenesis of some schizophrenic cases. Therefore, more basic studies and clinical trials are recommended to confirm this role.

### References

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