

Outcomes in Schizophrenia – Systematic Reviews

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Abstract:

The aim is to present recent systematic reviews related to outcome of schizophrenia. Included reviews focus different aspects of schizophrenia: proportion of recovery, family history of psychosis as a predictor of functional outcome, and duration of untreated psychosis (DUP) as a predictor of outcome. A comprehensive search strategy was used to identify potential studies, and data were extracted for those original articles that met inclusion criteria. A follow-up of at least two years was required. As a result, the median proportion who met our recovery criteria was 13.5%. Recovery was defined as improvements in both clinical and social domains, and evidence that improvement in at least one of these two domains had persisted for at least two years. Studies from sites in countries with poorer economic status had higher recovery proportions. DUP correlated statistically significantly

with poor general symptomatic outcome, more severe positive and negative symptoms, lesser likelihood of remission and poor social functioning and global outcome (correlations 0.13-0.18). Long DUP was not associated with employment, quality of life or hospital treatment. The presence of family history of psychosis was associated with poor occupational ($r=0.17$) and global ($r=0.13$) outcome. As a conclusion, based on the best available data, approximately one in seven individuals with schizophrenia met our criteria for recovery. Despite major changes in treatment options in recent decades, the proportion of recovered cases has not increased. Both family history of psychosis and longer duration of untreated psychosis associate moderately with poorer long-term outcome in schizophrenia.

Biography:

Jouko Miettunen has university degrees in statistics (MSc 1998; University of Oulu, Finland), epidemiology (MPhil 2003; University of Cambridge, UK), and psychiatry (PhD 2004; University of Oulu, Finland). Since 1997 he has work in various research positions at the University of Oulu, Finland. Currently he holds a position as a Professor in Clinical Epidemiology and he works also as an Academy Research Fellow of the Academy of Finland. He has over 160 peer-reviewed publications in field of psychiatry, his research focus has been especially on schizophrenia.