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SELF VS. INFORMANT REPORTS ON THE SPECIFIC LEVELS OF FUNCTIONING SCALE RELATIONSHIPS TO DEPRESSION AND COGNITION IN SCHIZOPHRENIA

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Schizophrenia is a debilitating disease, characterized by positive and negative symptoms, and its severity can vary across individuals. 50% to 81% of people with schizophrenia have poor insight into their illness. Thus, the reports that they fill out about their level of functioning and their quality of life (QOL) can be influenced by the amount of insight they have into their illness. People with schizophrenia with worse insight are more likely to have lower depressive symptoms and higher perceived QOL. The Specific Levels of Functioning (SLOF) scale for assessing both self and informant reports is used to obtain information about the interpersonal relationships, social acceptability, informant activities, and work capability of people with schizophrenia and other mental illnesses. The difference between these two reports (self and informant) may be able to help us understand the relationship between insight, life function, cognition, and symptoms in schizophrenia.

We hypothesize that individuals with schizophrenia who show more severe depression will underestimate their function and those with more psychotic symptoms will overestimate their function. In addition, individuals with schizophrenia who have worse cognitive function will overestimate their function.

Participant data for the current analysis were taken from two samples recruited by the Cognitive Neuroscience Test Reliability and Clinical Applications for Schizophrenia Consortium (CNTRACS). This resulted in a total of 186 individuals with schizophrenia or schizoaffective disorder in Sample 1 and 66 in Sample 2. We used the differences between self and informant reports in the SLOF scale to examine how these difference scores related to a number of cognitive factors and symptoms of mental illness.

It was discovered that under-estimators had significantly more depressive symptoms than either the correct or over-estimators. In addition, we found that over-estimators had significantly worse cognition than under or correct-estimators.