impairing empathic resonance and fostering misinterpretations of social cues.
Phenomenological approaches offer a critical lens for understanding these disturbances, emphasizing the embodied and relational aspects of schizophrenia. By shifting the focus from purely cognitive deficits to fundamental disruptions of interaffectivity, these approaches may provide a roadmap for developing interventions that address the precursors of violence, fostering a multifaceted understanding and management of schizophrenia.

Disclosure of Interest: None Declared

CBS016

Nosological problems in psychiatric diagnosis – Factitious disorder, Conversion, and Simulation

F. Novais[1]* and D. Telles-Correia

Faculdade de Medicina, Lisboa, Portugal
*Corresponding author.
doi: 10.1192/j.eurpsy.2025.235

Abstract: Diagnosing psychiatric conditions that involve the intentional or unconscious production of symptoms remains a significant challenge in clinical practice. This presentation examines a clinical case that highlights the difficulties in distinguishing between Factitious Disorder, Conversion Disorder, and Simulation. A 34-year-old woman was admitted with sudden onset of neurological symptoms, including pseudo epileptic crises. Her symptoms fluctuated inconsistently with clinical observation and failed to correlate with established neurological patterns, raising the suspicion of Conversion Disorder. However, further investigation revealed inconsistencies in her medical history and a pattern of seeking unnecessary treatments, suggesting the possibility of Factitious Disorder. Additionally, external incentives, such as the potential for financial compensation, prompted consideration of Simulation. The case presents a diagnostic dilemma that underscores the overlapping features of these conditions.
Neuroimaging may provide valuable insights into the case, supporting the exclusion of neurological pathologies but also subtle changes in brain activity in the areas involved in emotional regulation and self-representation, which may suggest the involvement of underlying psychological factors common in both Conversion and Factitious Disorder.
This case exemplifies the critical nosological challenges in differentiating between Factitious Disorder, Conversion Disorder, and Simulation. It highlights the importance of a comprehensive clinical approach, including neuroimaging, thorough psychological assessment, and consideration of psychosocial factors. The discussion aims to deepen understanding of these complex disorders and promote more accurate and nuanced diagnostic practices in psychiatry.

Disclosure of Interest: None Declared

CBS017

Neuronal synaptic autoantibodies and PsycHosis: Prognostic factors for the diagnosis of autoimmune encephalitis in patients with psychotic spectrum disorders -The PHLAMES Study

A. Pigoni

Neuroscience, IRCCS Fondazione Ca Granda Policlinico Hospital, Milan, Italy
doi: 10.1192/j.eurpsy.2025.236

Abstract: Background: The recent years witnessed an increase in the knowledge regarding autoimmune encephalitis (AE). These autoimmune entities often present with mixed psychiatric and neurologic features and in up to 4% of the cases the presentation is purely psychiatric. The diagnosis can be made only through the discovery of Neuronal Surface Autoantibodies (NSAbs) in the Cerebro Spinal Fluid, but symptoms and signs of possible and probable diagnosis have been described (Pollack et al., 2020). However, NSAbs can be found also in peripheral blood in various percentage of patients. The role of these antibodies in psychiatric patients is yet not known.
The PHLAMES study aims at evaluating first episode psychosis (FEP) patients for signs and symptoms of AE in a psychiatric setting, with the double objective of assessing the diagnosis of AE and the role of circulating NSAbs in psychiatric patients, through clinical evaluation, biological samples, and neuroimaging.
Methods: In the PHLAMES study, all patients with FEP (<6 months from the onset) were tested with a diagnostic algorithm for signs or symptoms of AE. A complete psychiatric and neurologic assessment was performed; cognitive tests were administered. All patients underwent blood sample to test for circulating autoantibodies against SNC structures.
A subsample also underwent MRI, including gadolinium contrast. Analyses compared patients testing positive for serum NSAbs (NSAbs-POS) to those tested negative (NSAbs-Neg).
Results: 12.8% of the patients tested positive for serum NSAbs (NSAbs-POS). No difference in terms of age, sex, BMI, years od education, and ethnicity was found between groups.
Regarding the neurologic variables, NSAbs-POS significantly showed more memory deficits, parkinsonism signs, and speech disorders ($p<0.001$), compared to NSAbs-NEG patients. Similarly, NSAbs-POS patients presented a significant in TMT-A, Raven, and RAVLT scores ($p<0.05$) compared to NSAbs-NEG. Finally, NSAbs-POS patients presented an increased score at PANSS "Somatic implication" item and a reduced score at PANSS "Insight" ($p<0.05$) items, suggesting a higher concern of these patients regarding their help and a greater awareness of their condition.
Regarding MRI, differences are present between groups, both on structural and on contrasted images.
Discussion: Our preliminary findings suggest the possibility that NSAbs-POS patients might represent a subpopulation of FEP with specific characteristics. These results are preliminary and need a confirmation in bigger samples, but they might represent a step towards the identification of clinically meaningful subgroups in FEP defined through an easy and not invasive test, helping to dissect the heterogeneity of psychiatric disorders and moving towards precision psychiatry.

Disclosure of Interest: None Declared

https://doi.org/10.1192/j.eurpsy.2025.235 Published online by Cambridge University Press