

Methods. This study used T1 imaging with Freesurfer analysis to investigate the differences in thalamic nuclei in 98 young people (53 with PEs) over three time points, from ages 11 to 18. A linear mixed effects (LME) model was used to examine the longitudinal nature of the data.

Results. The findings were entirely left sided – specifically a smaller left whole thalamus ($p = 0.04$), significant reduction in the size of the left pulvinar ($p = 0.008$) and a slight increase in the size of left ventral nucleus ($p = 0.005$).

Conclusion. This study found significant volumetric differences in thalamic functional composite nuclei between adolescents with a history of PE compared with healthy controls. Two such nuclear groups survived post-hoc DTR testing, the left ventral and left pulvinar nuclei. The pulvinar nucleus demonstrated a reduced volume over time in PE groups compared with healthy controls whilst the left ventral nucleus demonstrated an increased volume over time in PE groups compared with controls. The thalamus has been shown to be actively involved in the modulation of cortico-cortical communication via cortico-thalamo-cortical pathways, thus synchronizing the activity of the cortex during tasks that require attention. One of the core deficits believed to be a part of psychotic illnesses is the inappropriate modulation of attention through various cortical networks. This disrupted modulation results in a lack of control of goal-directed behaviour and can be attributed to the changes seen in pulvinar in psychotic illnesses, thus resulting in impairment in the integrity of sensory information and context processing. The affiliation of the ventral thalamic nucleus to the dopaminergic system, particularly the substantia nigra, may aid in explaining why this nucleus demonstrates larger volumes in adolescents with PEs compared with healthy controls over time.

More research needs to be done on following this cohort up, specifically investigating changes in thalamic nuclei in those who develop a diagnosable psychotic disorder.

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Linguistic Creativity and Formal Thought Disorder in Schizophrenia

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doi: 10.1192/bjo.2024.137

Aims. The present investigation was interested in whether formal thought disorder (FTD) in schizophrenia was in any way related to linguistic creativity. The project's main aims and research questions were the development of operational definitions of linguistic creativity and FTD in schizophrenia, an investigation of creative language processing in schizophrenia, and an investigation of creative language output in schizophrenia.

Methods. We designed a psycholinguistic experiment and collected natural language data to build a specialised schizophrenia corpus. Recruitment for the psycholinguistic experiment was challenged by the COVID pandemic and the technical abilities of

clinical participants. Those data are thus underpowered and not reported in the results. We collected sufficient data for the construction of the specialised corpus.

Results. We tested an operational definition of FTD in schizophrenia (the '4TD Framework') against our natural language dataset. There was good support for the framework, with grammatical and discourse tracking features reliably distinguishing clinical and comparison speakers ($p < 0.05$). We also examined concordance lines and grouped random concordances into error types. Error types were consistently similar across groups, suggesting that speech disturbances in schizophrenia are on a continuum with those of nonclinical speakers. We also conducted a keyness analysis to examine the key terms and semantic categories present in the corpus and noted significant differences in the clinical cohort. Clinical participants found discussion of the topic of linguistic creativity more challenging, deviating from topic more often. They also involved topics of emotional and personal concern at rates of up to 16 to 32 times more often than comparison participants in some cases.

Conclusion. Our results provide support for the dysexecutive and dyssemantic hypotheses of FTD, as well as work on the Thought Language Index (TLI) that also suggests that language disturbances in schizophrenia and FTD are on a continuum with nonclinical speech. Further research is needed to understand how these phenomena are positioned in relation to FTD as a transdiagnostic entity.

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Patterns of Psychiatric Help Seeking Behaviour Among Patients With Psychotic Illness, Presenting at Mental Health Institute in Pakistan

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doi: 10.1192/bjo.2024.235

Aims. To identify the patterns of psychiatric help seeking behaviour among patients with psychotic illness presenting to mental health institute in Pakistan.

Methods. This Descriptive, Cross-Sectional Design comprised of a sample of 103 patients with psychotic diseases, chosen via non-probability – consecutive sampling at Outpatient Department of Sir Cowasjee Jehangir Institute of Psychiatry, Hyderabad. The relatives of psychotic patients who were between 18 and 65 years of age with either gender and living with at least one family member were interviewed after taking informed written consent. An anonymous self-structured questionnaire containing inquiries pertaining to basic biodata, sociodemographic details, psychiatric diagnosis and disease particulars, pattern of help seeking and time and reasons for delay.

Results. The mean age of the sample stood at 32 years (± 9.5 SD). 1/3 of the sample comprised of male patients while only 24% were comprised of female population. The mean time elapsed after first episode psychosis till interview was 82 ± 32 months (7 years) while mean delay in help seeking to any helper was reported to be 41 ± 17 months (3.5 years). Majority of the patients approached first to faith healers (Aamil Baba, Witch Doctor,