Cognitive Impairment Associated With Schizophrenia: How Does It Impact People?

Cognitive impairment associated with schizophrenia (CIAS) affects 85% of people, with symptoms including:

- Poor memory
- Impaired attention
- Impaired learning
- Executive dysfunction
- Poor comprehension

CIAS often presents independent of positive symptoms; in the absence of positive symptoms, cognitive symptoms still remain.

CIAS predicts a reduction in real-world functioning as it impacts:

- Quality of life
- Relationships
- Employment
- Social functioning
- Daily life, e.g. self-care, cooking

CIAS may contribute to poor treatment adherence, which can result in relapse or rehospitalization.

Cognitive impairments often present early in the disease course.

References:

Schizophrenia is characterized by:

Positive symptoms
- Delusions, hallucinations, disorganized speech and behavior, agitation

Negative symptoms
- Blunted affect, emotional withdrawal, loss of motivation, social avoidance, lack of pleasure

Cognitive symptoms
- Reduced ability to learn, problem solve, think and communicate clearly

Poor memory
Impaired attention
Impaired learning
Executive dysfunction
Poor comprehension

There are no approved pharmacotherapies targeting CIAS.

Unmet need
CIAS has been reported by patients and caregivers to be one of the most burdensome symptoms of their condition.

“I forget people who I have met or the reason why I do things.”

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