Effectivity of a digital PANSS-training

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**Introduction**

- The Positive and Negative syndrome Scale (PANSS) is an often-used semi-structured clinical scale for the assessment of symptom severity in schizophrenia.
- Adequate training of raters is crucial for reliable scoring. Therefore, a standardized digital training that is readily available for training and knowledge maintenance may prove useful and cost-effective.

We compared the effectivity and usefulness of a newly developed short theoretical digital PANSS training with a traditional, more extensive practice-oriented training.

**Discussion**

- Accuracy was higher after the traditional training, however not significant. Theoretical knowledge and preparedness to conduct and rate the interview was higher after the traditional training. Inter-rated reliability was high in both groups.
- The short duration and the lack of feedback and interaction during the digital training may play a role in the differences in effectivity. Further research on the possible influence of these factors is needed.

After the necessary improvements the digital training could be a useful and cost-effective addition to the current PANSS training.

**Methods**

Healthy students (n=49) → Screening questionnaire → Traditional training RGOc (n=16*) 2 x 6 hours, group-wise → Digital training CRoNOS (n=18*) 3 hours, individual → Scoring of two patient video’s → Test of theoretical knowledge → The digital PANSS training in practice

*Groups were matched on age, gender, experience and level of education

**Measures**

- Accuracy of item ratings³
  - >80% correct (deviation ≤ 1 from expert item rating)
  - <20% deviation from expert total score
- Subscale scores
- Inter-rater reliability (intraclass correlation coefficient; ICC)
- Theoretical knowledge (% correct)
- Subjective feeling of preparedness to rate a PANSS interview (scale 1-5)
- Subjective feeling of preparedness to conduct a PANSS interview (scale 1-5)

Chi-square and t-tests were used where applicable. Analyses were performed in IBM SPSS version 22. p<.05 was considered significant.

**Results**

**Group differences (all traditional > digital training)**

- Accuracy of item ratings, however not significant

**No difference**

- Total scores

**Note. Solid: PANSS, striped: SCI-PANSS**

- Scores on negative subscale of the PANSS (t(32)=2.73, p=.01)
- Preparedness to conduct PANSS (t(28.34)=2.22, p=.03)
- Preparedness to rate PANSS (t(32)=2.71, p=.01)
- Theoretical knowledge (81.25% after traditional training, 70.63% after digital training; χ²(5)=12.71, p=.026)

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