

Poster Exhibition (abstracts)

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Bizarre Patterns of Self-injury in Schizophrenia - A case report

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Apart from suicide self-inflicted injuries are the most severe symptoms of schizophrenia. The high suicide rate of 10% during the course of disease and the even higher rate of suicide attempts (50%) are well known (1).

Less known are the bizarre self-mutilations, usually without suicidal ideation, such as autocastration, enucleation of the eye and amputation of hand or tongue. Those are often related to religious delusions predicting a particularly severe course of disease (2). Although the manifestation of coenesthetic hallucinations and delusionary symptoms in the genital region is well known, only few cases of genital self-mutilation are published until now (3,4).

We would like to report the case of a 27-year-old first-episode schizophrenic patient who castrated himself in hospital after partial remission. This too was probably related to religious delusions related to sexual contacts during the prodromal phase of the disease.

(1) Meltzer et al. Arch Gen Psychiatry. 2003 Jan;60(1):82-91

(2) Siddle et al. Soc Psychiatry Psychiatr Epidemiol. 2002 Mar;37(3):130-8

(3) Nakaya et al. Psychopathology. 1996;29(4):242-8

(4) Gößler et al. Psychiatr Prax. 2002 May;29(4):214-7