

COMPARATIVE STUDY OF CLINICAL FEATURES BETWEEN EARLY AND LATE-ONSET SCHIZOPHRENIA IN SOUTH KOREA

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Late-onset schizophrenia (LOS, age at first onset ≥ 40 years) is characterized by including predominance of women, better premorbid social adjustment and lower severity of positive/negative symptoms. However, few studies have been conducted on LOS, especially in Asian countries. This study aimed to examine the clinical features of LOS in comparison with early-onset schizophrenia (EOS). By reviewing medical records, we assessed demographic data and clinical features of 85 LOS (24 males) and 367 EOS (147 males) who admitted to the psychiatric ward of National Health Insurance Service Ilsan Hospital. The mean ages of onset were 47.4 ± 5.3 (LOS) and 25.7 ± 6.5 (EOS) years. There were significantly more women in LOS (71.8%) than EOS (60.0%). LOS patients had significantly higher IQ scores (100.5 ± 15.3) than EOS (92.2 ± 16.9). Significantly more LOS patients had a marital (LOS 86.9%, EOS 25.6%) and employment history (LOS 70.2%, EOS 12.4%) than EOS. There were no differences between LOS and EOS in the positive, negative, and general scores of Positive and Negative Syndrome Scale (PANSS) and Global Assessment of Functioning (GAF) measured at admission. In line with previous studies, this study demonstrated that LOS patients have better premorbid social adjustment since having marital history and employment history can be regarded as indices of good social functioning. Our finding also replicates previous findings that LOS patients differ from EOS in predominance of women and better cognitive function.

Biography

Jung Suk Lee completed his Medical Degree at the Yonsei University, South Korea. After that, he took Psychiatric Residency training at Severance Hospital, South Korea. He completed his PhD from the Yonsei University. He is now working as a Clinical Associate Professor at the Yonsei University and a Psychiatrist at the National Health Insurance Service Ilsan Hospital. He has published more than 20 papers in reputed journals. Thanks to these research achievements, he was awarded the Best Fellow in 2011 by the Korean Society for Schizophrenia Research and the Doctor Paul Janssen Schizophrenia Research Award in 2016.

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