

Title: Simplified Negative and Positive Symptoms Interview (SNAPSI): An Abbreviated Assessment Technique for Schizophrenia Studies

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ABSTRACT:

Methodological question. Can the PANSS be modified to be useable in clinical settings as well as in research?

Overview/Aims. There are numerous practical problems associated with using the full 30-item PANSS in clinical practice. The abbreviated, 6-item version of PANSS (PANSS-6) was derived empirically from the full PANSS-30. PANSS-6 ratings, guided by the newly developed, 15-minute stand-alone Simplified Negative and Positive Symptoms Interview (SNAPSI), may help bridge the measurement gap between research and clinical care in schizophrenia.

Methods. Valid PANSS-6 ratings may be obtained by means of the SNAPSI; data on this question is currently being collected. The SNAPSI and its utility is being studied with inpatients with schizophrenia, evaluated and compared to the SCI-PANSS as conducted by two independent raters. One rater will conduct the SCI-PANSS and subsequently rate the patient on the full 30-item PANSS. The other will conduct SNAPSI and rate on PANSS-6. Sensitivity to change in severity of illness will be taken into account and ratings may be compared at admission and discharge points during treatment.

Conclusion/Summary. The full 30-item PANSS is often used in research studies, but is too time consuming to allow for routine clinical use. The much briefer PANSS-6 is a psychometrically valid measure of core symptoms of schizophrenia and is sensitive to symptom improvement following pharmacological treatment. Our current research program may help to address the question as to whether the SNAPSI will help bridge the measurement gap between research and clinical care in schizophrenia.

Conflicts of interest:

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