The 16-item Negative Symptom Assessment (NSA-16) has construct validity was evaluated in a global, cross-sectional, observational, stand-alone study. Two hundred male and female adult outpatients with schizophrenia (DSM-IV) were included in the study and recruitment was oversampled such that 25% of patients were working independently at the time of assessment. The 16-item Negative Symptom Assessment (NSA-16) has been subjected to confirmatory factor analyses that have identified a 5-factor solution. The NSA-4 has four domains, each represented by an item (item = domain): Restricted Speech = Communication; Reduced Emotion = Emotion/Affect; Reduced Social Drive = Social Involvement; and Reduced Interests = Decreased Motivation.

RESULTS

- Readiness for work showed an overall association with statistically significantly lower levels of negative symptoms based on the NSA-4 total score (Spearman correlation, -0.39). Ready for work, mean 11.6, standard deviation (SD) 3.27; Not ready for work, mean 14.7, SD 3.97; (t-test P<0.0001).
- Consideration of the individual NSA-4 items showed moderate (0.4) and statistically significant correlations in the predicted direction for all items (Figures 1 to 4).
- The strongest relationships were between readiness for work and both ‘reduced interest’ and ‘reduced social drive’, as opposed to the ‘restricted speech’ and ‘reduced emotion’ items.

CONCLUSIONS

- The WoRQ was strongly associated with negative symptom severity in the predicted direction (i.e., patients ready for work had a lower severity of negative symptoms).
- Readiness for work was most associated with negative symptoms related to apathy-avolition on the NSA-4, as contrasted with diminished expression.
- These findings further confirm the construct validity of the WoRQ and suggest that there is an association between ratings on the scale and the severity of negative symptoms known to be predictive of functional outcomes.

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