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Survey of Primary Care Physicians' and Pediatricians' Competency in Identifying Prodromal Symptoms in Schizophrenia and Psychotic Disorders

Mark Shephard Rowan University

Joanna Petrides Psy.D. *Rowan University*

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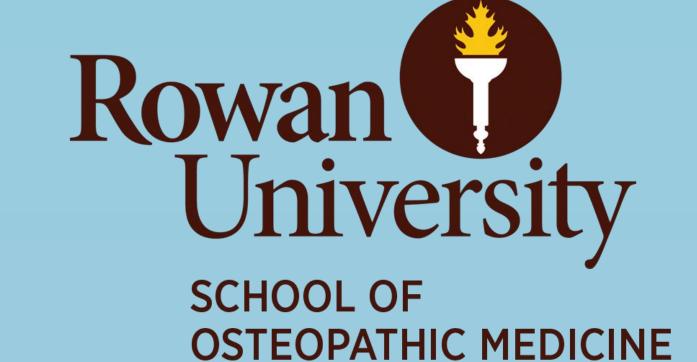
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Survey of Primary Care Physicians' and Pediatricians' Competency in Identifying Prodromal Symptoms in Schizophrenia and Psychotic Disorders



Mark Shephard, MS, OMS-II & Joanna Petrides, Psy.D.

Department of Family Medicine, Rowan University School of Osteopathic Medicine 42 East Laurel Road • Stratford, NJ 08084

Background

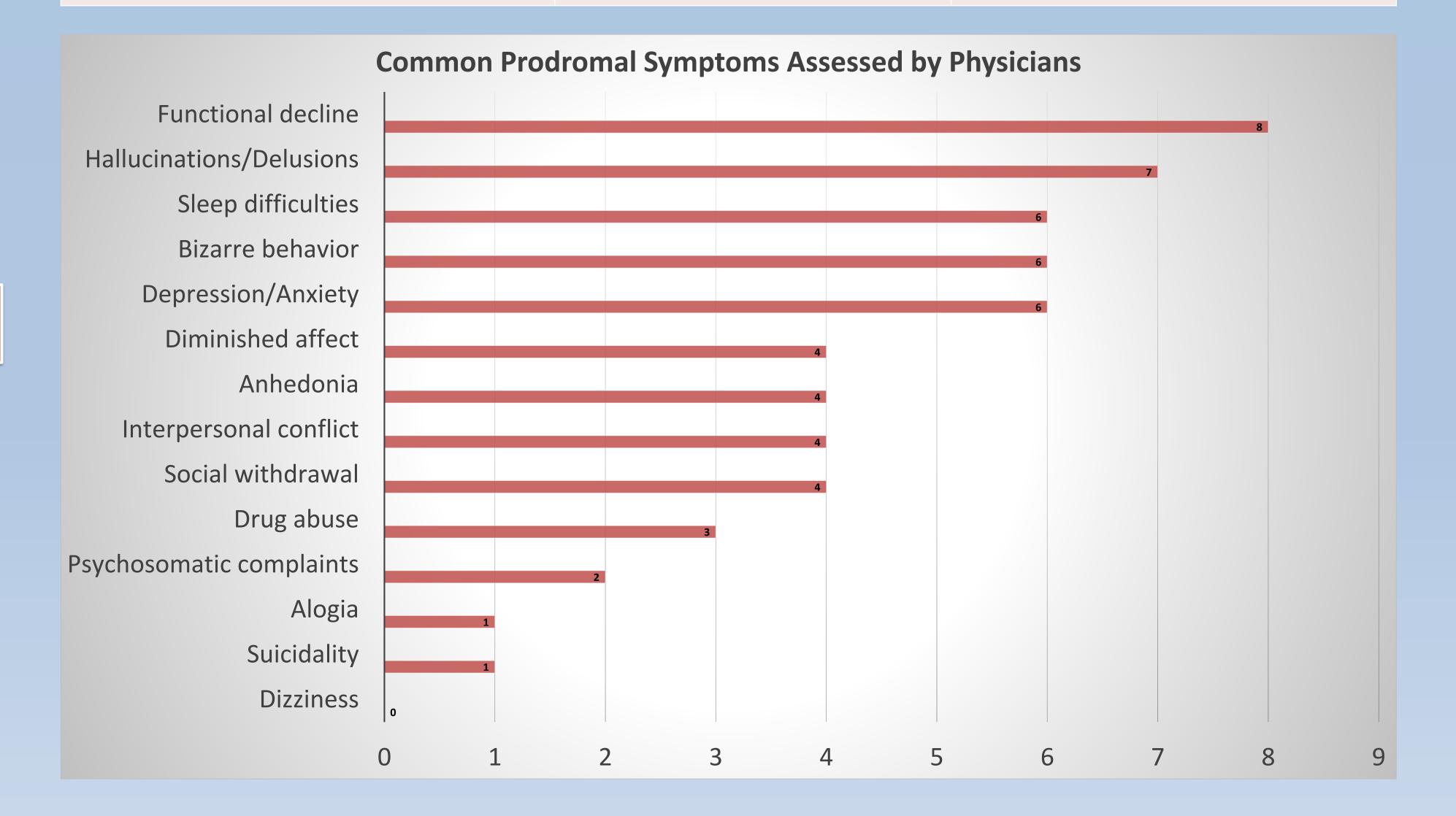
- To address whether primary care physicians and pediatricians are equipped to recognize the prodromal symptoms of psychotic disorders
- Patients of primary care physicians exhibited increased help-seeking behaviors prior to schizophrenia diagnosis¹
- Primary care physicians in numerous countries have shown a lack of sufficient knowledge related to diagnosing and treating schizophrenia 2,3,4,5,6
- Unclear if primary care physicians in the United States are adequately trained and prepared to recognize prodromal signs of schizophrenia, and diagnose and treat a variety of psychotic disorders

Methods

- Measures: Online-based adapted survey² distributed via list-serves
- Participants: Primary care physicians and pediatricians in NJ (n = 12)
- Analysis: Descriptive statistics

		Results	
	Mean (SD)	Range	
Age (years)	44 (16)	29 – 69	
Years in Practice	14.5 (14.2)	1 – 43	

		% of Participants
Gender	Male Female	18.2 81.8
Type of physician	Primary Care Pediatrics	16.7 83.3
Patients treated per week	1 - 10 11 - 20 30+	8.316.775
Is schizophrenia preceded by early warning signs?	Yes No	75 25
Patients treated annually with suspected schizophrenia	0 1 – 2	41.7 58.3
Preferred method of treating suspected schizophrenia	Collaboration Complete handover	8.3 91.7
Patients treated annually with diagnosed schizophrenia	0 1 - 2 6 - 9	75 16.7 8.3
Preferred method of treating established schizophrenia	Complete handover	100



Top methods physicians use to corroborate diagnosis:

- 1. Consultation with psychiatry
- 2. Interviewing the patient
- 3. Family history
- 4. Toxicology/Lab tests

Discussion

- Most physicians prefer handover of care for schizophrenia & suspected schizophrenia
- 66% of primary care physicians struggle to refer to psychiatry⁷
- Complete handover of psychiatric care may not always be possible due to psychiatry shortages⁷
- Limitations of study: Accessibility to survey, Complexity of survey

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