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# Neuropsychological Functioning in Youth with Childhood-onset Schizophrenia

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## ABSTRACT

Schizophrenia, in the general adult population, has an extremely low base rate. The American Psychiatric Association has not published population estimates for Childhood-onset Schizophrenia (COS) because the disorder is extremely uncommon. Adults and youth with Schizophrenia display characteristic impairments such as a loss of touch with reality and emotional difficulties. Typically, these emotional problems fall into one of two categories: having little or no emotion or displaying inappropriate emotions for the specific situation, such as laughing at a funeral. Individuals with COS, similarly to individuals with Adult-onset Schizophrenia (AOS), have impairments in functioning of their brain and central nervous system. Central nervous system deficits have been observed with measurements of weakened smooth-pursuit eye movements and jerky movements of limbs and other extremities. Individuals with both AOS and COS usually have an abnormality in a region of the brain specific to executive functioning, such as planning, or memory. If there is a lesion present in any of these locations, specific neuropsychological problems result. Neuropsychological difficulties normally found are in the domains of memory, IQ, and other neuropsychological functions, such as spatial and planning abilities.

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