The effect of fluvoxamine on cognition in patients with schizophrenia

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Introduction
Schizophrenia is a severe disease which affects different aspects of behavior, including cognitive functions.

Objectives
To evaluate the effect of Fluvoxamine on the symptoms of schizophrenia including positive and negative symptoms, cognitive impairment, and quality of life.

Methods
This clinical trial was performed on 68 patients with chronic schizophrenia, randomly divided into control and intervention groups. The control group was treated with Risperidone and Biperiden, whereas the intervention group received Fluvoxamine, besides Risperidone, and Biperiden. The participants completed the Wechsler Memory Scale, Scale for the Assessment of Positive Symptoms, Scale for the Assessment of Negative Symptoms (SANS), and the World Health Organization Quality of Life Scale, and the findings were statistically analyzed at baseline and postintervention (8 and 10 weeks).

Finding
The difference between the groups in terms of SANS and quality of life scores was significant in the specified intervals, SANS (F = 6.36, P = 0.004), and quality of life (F = 15.13, P ≤ 0.001). Nevertheless, no difference was observed in terms of Scale for the Assessment of Positive Symptoms scores (P > 0.05).

Conclusions
The results indicated that Risperidone augmentation with fluvoxamine could significantly improve cognitive impairments and negative symptoms among patients with schizophrenia. Moreover, this augmentation led to higher quality of life among these patients.