

BLINK REFLEX LATENCY IN SCHIZOPRENIC PATIENTS

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Abstract

Ocular manifestations have been found to take different forms in schizophrenic patients. Controversy has been found concerning blink rate. In this study blink reflex latency was measured in 25 Schizophrenic patients and were compared with 40 normal subjects. Blink reflex latency was measured by stimulation of the supraorbital nerve both on the right and left side. Both early and late reponses were recorded from the orbicularis oculi muscles on both sides. Blink reflex latency was found to be delayed. The differences between the case sample and the control group was found to be statistically significant. This might be related to impaired functioning of higher centers of the brain. This test can be used as one of the diagnostic biological markers in schizophrenic patients. It might also serve in the follow up of the patients' response to treatment. In order to verify this deduction further more compre-