

Excess mortality and suicide risk in individuals with schizotypal disorder: A population-based study using Swedish national registers

3. Epidemiology and surveillance

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Abstract text

This study investigates the excess mortality, both all-cause and due to suicide, among individuals with schizotypal disorder (SD) compared to the general population. Using individual-level data from the Swedish National Patient Register and the Cause of Death Register, we analyzed mortality in 998 patients diagnosed with SD from 2006 to 2017. Our primary outcomes were all-cause mortality and suicide mortality, with baseline variables including sex, age, and psychiatric comorbidities. Results indicated significantly elevated mortality rates for both all-cause mortality (Standardized Mortality Ratio (SMR) 5.2) and suicide (SMR 23.4). Substance use disorders, personality disorders, and ADHD were identified as significant predictors of increased all-cause mortality. Notably, having a personality disorder in conjunction with schizotypal disorder resulted in a markedly increased risk of suicide. The study underscores the urgent need for targeted interventions and improved diagnostic precision to reduce premature mortality in this vulnerable population. Additionally, the relatively low prevalence of SD diagnoses in Sweden highlights a potential underdiagnosis or misclassification issue. These findings have critical implications for clinical practice and public health efforts, emphasizing the necessity for comprehensive care strategies and suicide prevention interventions to improve outcomes for individuals with schizotypal disorder.