

Is left-handedness higher among those suffering from psychosis?

October 30 2013

Researchers have long studied the connections between hand dominance and different aspects of the human brain. A new study out today in *SAGE Open* finds that among those with mental illnesses, left-handers are more likely to suffer from psychotic disorders such as schizophrenia than mood disorders.

"Our results show a strikingly higher prevalence of left-handedness among patients presenting with [psychotic disorders](#) such as schizophrenia and schizoaffective disorder, compared to patients presenting for [mood symptoms](#) such as depression or bipolar disorder," wrote the authors.

Authors Jadon R. Webb, et. al examined 107 individuals from a public psychiatric clinic seeking treatment in an urban, low-income community and determined the frequency of left-handedness within the group of patients identified with different types of mental disorders. They found that 11% of those diagnosed with mood disorders such as depression and bipolar disorder were left-handed, which is similar to the rate in the general population, however, 40% of those with schizophrenia or schizoaffective disorder were left-handed.

The authors discussed additional factors that might be tied to the connection between schizophrenia and left-handedness such the variation of brain lateralization, scholastic achievement or race.

"Our own data showed that whites with psychotic illness were more

likely to be left-handed than black patients," the authors wrote. "Even after controlling for this, however, a large difference between psychotic and [mood disorder](#) patients remained."

More information: "Left-Handedness Among a Community Sample of Psychiatric Outpatients Suffering From Mood and Psychotic Disorders" *SAGE Open*.

Provided by SAGE Publications

Citation: Is left-handedness higher among those suffering from psychosis? (2013, October 30) retrieved 2 May 2024 from

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