

**Assessment of information-processing skills during daily task performance in persons with schizophrenia: usefulness of the Perceive, Recall, Plan and Perform System of task analysis (PRPP).**

Ginette Aubin<sup>1</sup>, Emmanuel Stip<sup>2</sup>, Isabelle Gelinias<sup>1</sup>, Constant Rainville<sup>3</sup>, Christine Chapparo<sup>4</sup>  
<sup>1</sup>McGill University, Montreal, Canada, <sup>2</sup>Universite de Montreal, Montreal, Canada, <sup>3</sup>Institut universitaire de Geriatrie de Montreal, Montreal, Canada, <sup>4</sup>University of Sydney, Sydney, Australia

**Introduction:** People with schizophrenia often complain about the impact of cognitive difficulties on their daily life. Functional assessments are used by occupational therapists to examine the consequences of these difficulties on daily tasks and to establish treatment goals. In most of these assessments, errors in performance are identified but little information is available on the observable "information-processing" skills that are impaired. One performance-based assessment, the Perceive, Recall, Plan and Perform System of task analysis (PRPP) was developed based on an information-processing model. This assessment should be useful to examine the information-processing skills in clients with a diagnostic of schizophrenia during the performance of daily tasks.

**Objectives:** This study aimed to investigate which information-processing skills are affected in persons with schizophrenia during the performance of daily tasks and to explore whether subgroups of participants have different profiles based on their level of skill efficiency.

**Methods:** Eighty-two participants with schizophrenia living in the community

were assessed during their performance of a daily activity (meal preparation). Measures included the PRPP System, community functioning and symptom assessments, and neuropsychological tests. Participants were classified in the high or low efficiency group according to their score on the PRPP System. Groups were compared on the functional, cognitive, and symptoms variables.

**Results:** Participants committed various errors and impaired information-processing skills in the Perceive, Recall and Plan quadrants were observed during the task performance. Participants from the high-efficiency group attained residential independence better than participants from the low-efficiency group even when familiarity with the task was taken into account. The high efficiency group also had better visuospatial memory.

**Conclusions:** These results emphasize the relationship between efficient processing skills and independent living, as well as with visuospatial memory, as was found in other studies.

**Contribution to the practice/evidence base of occupational therapy:** One purpose of functional assessments is to determine whether a person can effectively and safely perform the tasks essential for independent living. In the current study, using the PRPP System during a meal preparation task did differentiate between individuals who were independent from those who were dependent in their residential status for a significant proportion of participants.