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## BACKGROUND

CGI-SCH scale is a five-item scale that has been proved valid and reliable to evaluate severity and treatment response in schizophrenia. It was assessed (Haro et al. 2003) against the PANSS five dimensions (Vincen et al., 1999). The Marder positive and negative symptom factors (Edgar et al., 2014) may be a more valid alternative to summarize the PANSS ratings.

## OBJECTIVES

To compare the ratings of the Clinical Global Impression-Schizophrenia (CGI-SCH) scale with the Marder's PANSS positive and negative symptom scores.

## METHODS

The study sample included in- and out-patients with schizophrenia (according to IDC-10 or DSM-IV criteria), as well as patients experiencing an acute episode and those in a stable condition from three centres (Parc Sanitari Sant Joan de Déu in Barcelona, Spain, the University of Cambridge in the UK and the University of Ioannina in Greece). All patients were receiving psychiatric treatment, were 18 years or older, and gave informed consent for participation. Patients were evaluated with the CGI-SCH scales (Haro et al., 2003), the Positive and Negative Symptoms Scale (PANSS), the Global Assessment of Functioning Scale (GAF) and the EuroQoL 5D. Patients included in the study were rated by two clinicians (one of whom was usually the treating psychiatrist) using the battery of instruments. The study protocol was approved by the ethics committees of the participating institutions.

**Table 1. Description of the sample**

	N (%)		Mean (sd)
	114 (100)	Age at first treatment	24.1 (6.6)
Setting		Age	36.9 (10.8)
Inpatient	51 (44.7)	PANSS negative score	17.8 (8.2)
Outpatient	63 (55.3)	PANSS positive score	22.5 (8.7)
Female	33 (28.9)	HDRS	11.8 (6.0)
Single	83 (72.8)	GAF	44.2 (18.9)
> 12 yrs education	49 (43.0)	EQ-5D VAS	67.6 (21.8)
Working for pay	17 (14.9)	CGI-SCH positive	3.9 (1.7)
Living independently	35 (30.7)	CGI-SCH negative	3.4 (1.4)
		CGI-SCH depressive	2.0 (1.0)

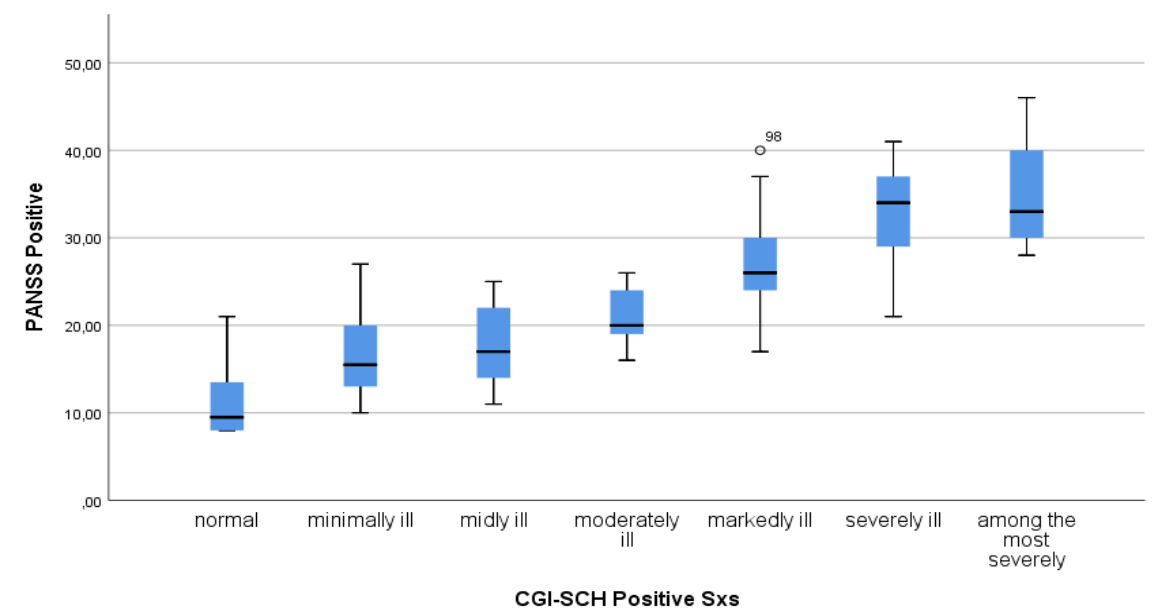
HDRS: Hamilton depression rating scale / GAF: Global Assessment of Functioning  
EQ-5D VAS: Visual analogue scale of the EuroQoL 5D

**Table 2. Person correlation coefficient between the scales**

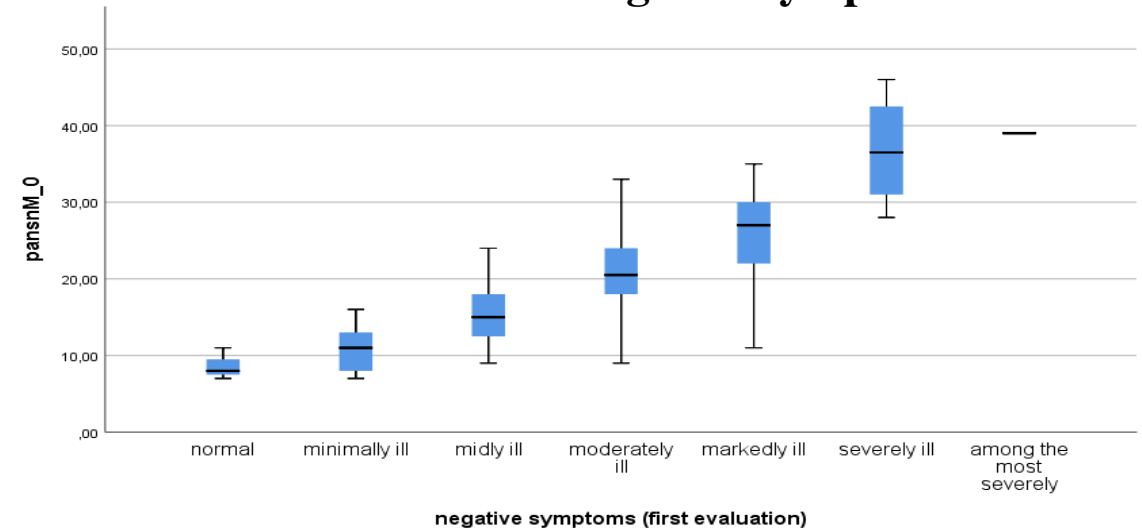
	PANSS Positive	GAF	EQ-5D VAS	CGI-SCH Positive	CGI-SCH Negative
PANSS Negative	.292**	-.476**	-0.144	.195*	.819**
PANSS Positive		-.662**	-0.153	.815**	.433**
GAF			0.146	-.562**	-.536**
EQ-5D VAS				-.217*	-.112
CGI-SCH Positive					.376**

\* p<0.05; \*\* p<0.01; \*\*\* p<0.001

**Figure 1. Box and whiskers plot of the PANSS positive score and the CGI-SCH positive symptoms.**



**Figure 2. Box and whiskers plot of the PANSS negative score and the CGI-SCH negative symptoms.**



**Table 3. Partial correlation coefficient between the scales adjusting for HRDS severity**

	PANSS positive score	CGI-SCH positive	CGI-SCH negative
PANSS negative	.126	-.012	.792***
PANSS positive		.739***	.276
CGI-SCH positive			.162

\* p<0.05; \*\* p<0.01; \*\*\* p<0.001

Similar correlation between the HDRS and the PANSS negative score (0.316, p<0.01) and the CGI-negative score (0.321, p<0.01).

## CONCLUSION

The CGI-SCH positive and negative items have high concordance with the Marder's PANSS positive and negative symptoms score, respectively.

The correlation between PANSS negative and CGI-SCH negative scores is not affected by the severity of depressive symptoms.

Given its simplicity, brevity and validity, the scale is appropriate for use in observational studies, clinical trials and routine clinical practice.

## REFERENCES

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