Abstract

This Master's thesis is a pilot validation study of the Schizophrenia Proneness scale (SzP; Bolinskey et al., 2001), a special scale that was additionally derived from MMPI-2 items to predict an increased tendency to develop schizophrenia and schizophrenia-related illnesses in the future. Despite the previous promising results, further validation of the scale's properties is needed, including validation in a sample of patients who are already in the acute phase of their illness (Nichols & Crowhurst, 2006). The aim of this thesis is to describe the scale and pilot validate it in a sample of just these patients.

The literature review section is divided into three chapters describing: schizophrenia and the possibilities of predicting schizophrenia and psychosis; the MMPI-2 psychodiagnostic method and the specifics of its use in an inpatient psychiatric ward; and the SzP scale, its development and properties. The aim of the research is to pilot test the validity of the SzP scale in the Czech environment by comparing the results of patients with psychotic versus non-psychotic type of difficulties. The research sample consisted of 312 patients. The Student's *t*-test for independent samples found no statistically significant difference between the groups of patients. On this basis, it was not proceeded to explore the cut-off score for the best possible differentiation of psychotic features, which was the follow-up aim of the study. The results are in contrast to previous research, failing to gather evidence for the validity of the scale on this sample. The results need to be verified in further research.