

## Association between employment outcomes and symptomatic remission in chronic patients with schizophrenia

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The consensus-based criteria for symptomatic remission in schizophrenia were published by the remission in schizophrenia working group (RSWG) in 2005. However, symptomatic remission does not necessarily equalize functional remission. Employment status could be a subsequent outcome of functional remission. This study aimed to explore the association between the employment outcomes and remission of symptoms in patients with schizophrenia through a cohort study.

A total of 525 patients were recruited from the therapeutic community in a public psychiatric hospital between January 2013 and December 2015. Potential covariates including age, gender, education, types and defined daily dose of antipsychotics, mini-mental state examination (MMSE), personal and social performance scale (PSP), and initial employment type were controlled. A general linear model (GLM) was used to examine the associations between employment outcome and remission of symptoms.

The majority of subjects were males (65.3%) with average age of 51.8 years old. At one-year follow-up, we found that social function could have more impacts on employment status despite symptomatic remission. The yearly accumulated months and incomes of work were robustly associated with PSP ( $F = 4.44$ ,  $p = 0.036$ ). After controlling for related confounders, the GLM model analysis further showed that the patients who had symptomatic remission were employed 0.56 months longer and earned NT\$7,371 more than those patients who did not show symptomatic remission ( $p = 0.003$ )

The patients with symptomatic remission had better employment outcomes. Aside from symptomatic remission, social function and employment status at enrollment were key indicators of functional remission within two years.