

## Revisiting the Concepts of Secondary Schizophrenia and Pseudoschizophrenia

### Revisitando os Conceitos de Pseudoesquizofrenia e Esquizofrenia Secundária

**Keywords:** Schizophrenia; Schizophrenia Spectrum and Other Psychotic Disorders

**Palavras-chave:** Espectro da Esquizofrenia e Outros Transtornos Psicóticos; Esquizofrenia

Dear Editor,

We read with great interest the recent article published in your journal regarding psychosis associated with herbal products.<sup>1</sup>

We would like to congratulate the authors for such an elegant case report. The presented patient, an unusual case of toxic psychosis, could have been easily misdiagnosed as having schizophrenia. Clinicians have, for more than seven decades, and often with far less resources, available, been able to detect these pseudo-schizophrenic cases.<sup>2</sup> More recently, the term “pseudoschizophrenia” has been suggested, by some authors, to be used, before making the diagnosis of true schizophrenia, just like the term “pseudodementia” has been used before making the diagnosis of true dementia.<sup>3</sup>

We also agree with the authors when they highlighted the importance of secondary psychosis. Unfortunately, it is not rare to see patients presenting with psychotic syn-

dromes, and diagnosed with schizophrenia, even in the presence of past medical history of seizures. In our recently published cohort of 200 psychotic patients, we found a rate of 9.5% of secondary schizophrenia due to epilepsy.<sup>4</sup>

Schizophrenia is the ultimate diagnosis of exclusion in psychiatry. Schizophrenia is, we shall never forget, the great imitated, by many great imitators and small imitators.<sup>5</sup>

#### PROTECTION OF HUMANS AND ANIMALS

The author declare that the procedures were followed according to the regulations established by the Clinical Research and Ethics Committee and to the Helsinki Declaration of the World Medical Association updated in 2013.

#### DATA CONFIDENTIALITY

The author declares that he followed the protocols in use at their working center regarding patients' data publication.

#### COMPETING INTERESTS

The authors have declared that no competing interests exist.

#### FUNDING SOURCES

This research received no specific grant from any funding agency in the public, commercial, or not-for-profit sectors.

#### REFERENCES

- Machado A, Dias-Amaral A, Silva A, Grangeia R. Perturbação delirante e produtos de ervanária: caso clínico. Acta Med Port. 2021;34:548-51.
- Heuyer G, Feld M, Juredieu C. Epilepsie et syndrome confusionnel chronique pseudo-schizophrénique par sténose congénitale de l'aqueduc; guérison par ventriculostomie. Ann Med Psychol. 1953;111:242-9.
- Taylor M. The Concept of Pseudoschizophrenia by Dr. Adityanjee. Neuropsychiatry Neuropsychol Behav Neurol. 1998;11:174.
- Gama Marques J. Organic psychosis causing secondary schizophrenia in one-fourth of a cohort of 200 patients previously diagnosed with primary schizophrenia. Prim Care Companion CNS Disord. 2020;22:19m02549.
- Gama Marques J, Bento A. Schizophrenia: the great imitated (by many great imitators and small imitators). J Clin Neurosci. 2020;80:79.

João GAMA MARQUES✉<sup>1,2</sup>

1. Serviço de Psiquiatria Geral e Transcultural. Hospital Júlio de Matos. Centro Hospitalar Psiquiátrico de Lisboa. Lisboa. Portugal.

2. Clínica Universitária de Psiquiatria e Psicologia Médica. Faculdade de Medicina. Universidade de Lisboa. Lisboa. Portugal.

Autor correspondente: João Gama Marques. [joagamarques@gmail.com](mailto:joagamarques@gmail.com)

Recebido: 02 de julho de 2021 - Aceite: 06 de julho de 2021 - First published: 15 de setembro de 2021 - Online issue published: 02 de novembro de 2021

Copyright © Ordem dos Médicos 2021

<https://doi.org/10.20344/amp.16805>

