## Effects of Attention Training on Information Processing in Schizophrenia

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#### Abstract

This study evaluated the impact of a cognitive retraining intervention designed to enhance the attention skills of schizophrenia patients. The dependent variables included measures of perceptual sensitivity and sustained vigilance derived from a visual continuous performance test, as well as visual span of apprehension and word-list recall. Sixteen subjects received approximately 15 hours of repeated practice with computer-mediated vigilance tasks. Seventeen subjects were assigned to a no-treatment control group. All subjects were rated on measures of negative and positive symptoms before treatment. Despite improved performance on the training tasks, no significant changes on the outcome measures were observed following treatment. Thus, it is suggested that cognitive rehabilitation interventions with schizophrenia patients stress the teaching of behavioral strategies that bypass deficits, rather than remediating deficiencies in basic abilities, such as attention.

Schizophrenia Bulletin, 20(3): 537-546, 1994.

The past decade has witnessed a proliferation of outcome research and case studies investigating the effects of cognitive retraining in patients with traumatic brain injury (for reviews see O'Connor and Cermak 1987; Wilson 1987; Benedict 1989). Surprisingly, there has been relatively little investigation of cognitive retraining in schizophrenia, despite the fact that schizophrenia and brain-injured patients often endure similar cognitive deficits. In a recent volume

of this journal devoted specifically to this topic, Spring and Ravdin (1992) urged investigators to pursue cognitive retraining with schizophrenia subjects, citing the few early studies that had yielded positive outcomes (Wagner 1968; Mieselman 1973; Steffy and Galbraith 1980). Although some argue that instituting cognitive retraining with schizophrenia patients either for treatment or research is premature (Bellack 1992), most agree that the issue merits empirical examination (Erickson and Binder 1986; Magaro et al. 1986; Spaulding et al. 1986; Flesher 1990; Liberman and Green 1992; Spring and Raydin 1992).

In an investigation with schizophrenia patients, Benedict and Harris (1989) examined the impact of repeated practice with computer-mediated cognitive tasks developed for brain-injury cognitive rehabilitation (Gianutsos and Klitzmer 1981, 1984; Bracey 1982; Gianutsos 1982). Subjects who received cognitive retraining demonstrated improved reaction time, whereas no improvement was observed in nontreated controls. A strength of this investigation was the inclusion of both an attentionplacebo and no-treatment control group. Unfortunately, the experimental group included only five subjects, thereby limiting the generalizability of the findings. In addition, reaction time was probably not the best choice for a dependent measure, because deficits on this task are strongly associated with the presence of psychotic

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# **Attention And Information Processing In Schizophrenia**

**Anthony S. Fauci** 

Attention And Information Processing In Schizophrenia:

Decoding **Attention And Information Processing In Schizophrenia**: Revealing the Captivating Potential of Verbal Expression

In a period characterized by interconnectedness and an insatiable thirst for knowledge, the captivating potential of verbal expression has emerged as a formidable force. Its power to evoke sentiments, stimulate introspection, and incite profound transformations is genuinely awe-inspiring. Within the pages of "Attention And Information Processing In Schizophrenia," a mesmerizing literary creation penned by a celebrated wordsmith, readers set about an enlightening odyssey, unraveling the intricate significance of language and its enduring impact on our lives. In this appraisal, we shall explore the book is central themes, evaluate its distinctive writing style, and gauge its pervasive influence on the hearts and minds of its readership.

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#### **Attention And Information Processing In Schizophrenia Introduction**

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