

### Abstract

Psychosis in childhood and adolescence is an uncommon but serious mental disorder. There were very few research on this area and no data existed for the Chinese population. This is a medium term (mean=5.1 years) follow up study using retrospective case note review coupled with clinical interview at follow up. The study aims at finding the outcome of psychotic disorders with onset in childhood and adolescence, the predictors of outcome and the mortality.

Fifty patients consecutively referred for in-patient and out-patient treatment of psychotic disorders under the age of 18 during the year 1992 to 1994 in a specific catchment area were recruited. Premorbid variables, onset characteristics were obtained from case records and elicited using standardised instruments. Outcome variables were obtained at a follow up interview with patients and relatives.

The outcome was bleak in early onset schizophrenia. They were characterised by low premorbid functioning and continuing impairment. 26.7% had a very poor outcome, only 17.2% had a good outcome. 16.4% committed suicide during the first 6 years. Predictors of poor outcome included male sex, early age of onset of psychosis and low premorbid GAF.