

hensive study involving a large group of patients is recommended. The sample should take into consideration the phase of the illness (acute or chronic) as well as the medications whether used or not.

Introduction :

Ocular manifestations have been found to take different forms in schizophrenic patients. Different studies have been done to evaluate the prevalence of these manifestations. They include visual hallucinations, pareidolic illusions, poor eye contact, disorders of facial recognition, impaired eye tracking and disturbance in the blink rate. (Kaplan, & Sadock 1989).

Schizophrenics were found to have increased frequency of blink rate more than normal people during visumotor tasks (Mackert et al, 1990 & Karson et al, 1990).

Chronic schizophrenics were found to blink more frequently than the acute schizophrenic patients. They concluded that the elevating factors may be related to the chronicity (Cegalis & Sweeny, 1979).

Farah (1986) found also that the blink rate is increased in schizophrenic patients (31.8 blink/min) as compared to normal (21.1 blink/min).

On the other hand Mueser et al, 1984 failed to confirm increased blink rate in schizophrenics compared to normal subjects. Even there are studies that recorded a decrease blink rate in schizophrenic patients (Mackintosh et al, 1983).