

ABSTRACT

A Comparative Study on Emotion Identification and its Intensity between Adults with Schizophrenia and Healthy Adults: Using Film Music Excerpts with Intended Emotion

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The purpose of this study was to examine the difference between adults with schizophrenia and healthy adults in terms of emotion identification and its intensity. The study was approved by the Institutional Review Board(IRB) of Ewha Womans University. A total of 60 subjects, including 27 adults with schizophrenia and 33 healthy adults participated in this study. The mean age of each group was 48.5(schizophrenia group) and 41.9(healthy adult group) years, respectively. The schizophrenia group was further analyzed according to symptom types including positive and negative symptoms. In the study, participants listened to eight music excerpts with intended emotions of happiness, calmness, anger, and sadness. The participants were asked to choose the perceived emotion on each music, and rate the intensity level of the emotion. For analysis of collected data, two-way ANOVA was used to evaluate the difference in emotion identification accuracy and intensity of perceived emotions. The result showed that adults with schizophrenia were significantly less accurate in recognizing all four intended emotions in music and also showed significantly lower intensity level than the healthy adult group. Also positive valence(happiness, calmness) is relatively higher than negative valence(anger, sadness). Within the schizophrenia group, participants with positive symptoms showed significantly higher accuracy in emotion identification, however there was no significant difference in perceived emotion intensity.

The results of this study indicate that there is a disparity between adults with schizophrenia and healthy adults in identifying emotion in music. The study may provide foundational understanding in applying music in music interventions for adults with schizophrenia.