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Cognitive Performance in Early-Onset Schizophrenia and Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder: A 25-Year Follow-up Study

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Abstract

Early-Onset Schizophrenia (EOS) and Attention Deficit-Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) are early-onset neurodevelopmental disorders associated with cognitive deficits. The current study represents the first attempt to compare these groups on a comprehensive cognitive test battery in a longitudinal design over 25 years in order to enhance our knowledge of particular patterns resulting from the interaction between normal maturational processes and different illness processes of these disorders. In the baseline study, 19 adolescents with schizophrenia were compared to 20 adolescents with ADHD and 30 healthy controls (HC), all between 12 and 18 years of age. After 13 years (T2) and after 25 years (T3) they were re-evaluated with the cognitive test battery. A cognitive Composite Score was used in a linear mixed model. The EOS group had a significant cognitive stagnation or deterioration from T1 to T2 compared to HC. However, the EOS group had the most positive change from T2 to T3, supporting a stable level of cognitive performance over the 25 year span. The ADHD group improved or had similar development as the HC group from T1 to T2. They continued to improve significantly compared to the HC group from T2 to T3. Individuals in the EOS group performed more impaired on the cognitive composite score compared to the HC group and the ADHD group at all three time points. Results might indicate a neurodevelopmental pathway of EOS with subnormal cognitive development specific in adolescence. In comparison, the ADHD group had a more consistent cognitive maturation supporting a maturational delay hypothesis of ADHD.

Keywords: Early-onset schizophrenia, adolescence, longitudinal, neurocognition, neurodevelopmental, ADHD

42 **INTRODUCTION**

43 Early-Onset Schizophrenia (EOS) and Attention Deficit-Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) are two
44 different disorders, which are considered to have dissimilar etiologies, prognoses, and treatment
45 programs. However, the disorders also share some characteristics. Both are viewed as early-onset
46 neurodevelopmental disorders often persisting throughout the life span (Owen et al., 2011).
47 Moreover, deficits in multiple cognitive domains are central features of both disorders and have
48 been related to functional difficulties in social functioning, education or employment, and
49 independent living (Biederman et al., 2006;Keefe and Harvey, 2012;Van Lieshout et al., 2013).
50 However, few studies have investigated whether the two groups differ with regard to how cognitive
51 functions develop from adolescence into adult years. A better understanding of the similarities and
52 differences in the maturation of cognitive function in individuals with EOS and ADHD compared to
53 healthy controls (HC) may enhance our knowledge of particular patterns resulting from the
54 interaction between normal maturational processes and different illness processes of these disorders
55 (Barr, 2001).

56 Some longitudinal studies comparing adults with schizophrenia with HC report a decline in
57 certain cognitive functions over time (Fett et al., 2019;Zanelli et al., 2019). Some other studies
58 suggest that older patients with schizophrenia (e.g., over 65 years old) show worsening cognitive
59 performance (Harvey, 2001;Thompson et al., 2013). However, most research indicates that
60 schizophrenia is a neurodevelopmental disorder with cognitive impairments that stabilize after
61 illness onset or improve following the first episode of psychosis in adult patients (Rund et al.,
62 2016;Van Haren et al., 2019).

63 Compared to adult-onset schizophrenia, EOS is associated with greater genetic loading,
64 more pronounced developmental and premorbid deviance, and worse clinical course and outcome
65 compared to adult-onset schizophrenia (Frangou, 2013). The few existing long-term, cognitive
66 follow-up studies of EOS patients compared to HC have reported not only relative stability in some
67 cognitive functions but also abnormal developmental trajectories in cognition throughout late
68 adolescence into early adulthood (Frangou, 2013;Juuhl-Langseth et al., 2014). These results stand
69 in contrast to the stability of cognitive functioning reported in the majority of longitudinal cognitive
70 studies in adults with schizophrenia (Rund et al., 2016).

71 Longitudinal cognitive studies of individuals with ADHD have documented stability or
72 improvement in cognitive performance through adolescence into young adulthood (Biederman et
73 al., 2009;Oie et al., 2010;Biederman et al., 2012;van Lieshout et al., 2019). The results from these
74 studies are in accordance with results from neuroanatomical studies suggesting a maturational lag
75 hypothesis of the pathogenesis of ADHD (Shaw et al., 2007;Shaw et al., 2012). This hypothesis
76 suggests a partial or full catch-up of cognitive functioning to the level of healthy controls for
77 cognitive functions. However, questions still exist regarding the persistence and course of these
78 deficits over time in ADHD (van Lieshout et al., 2019).

79 Limitations in earlier longitudinal studies of adolescents with EOS and ADHD include
80 relatively short follow-up intervals, and few studies have included comparison groups, which is
81 important to be able to control for the potential impact of normative age-associated changes in
82 cognitive functioning. Our research group was the first to compare adolescents with EOS or ADHD
83 and HC on cognitive measures (Øie and Rund, 1999), and to follow them up after 13 years (Oie et
84 al., 2010;Oie et al., 2011). The individuals in the EOS group showed a significant decline or arrest
85 in neurocognitive functioning compared with the other two groups.

86 In the present study, we wanted to expand our 13-year follow up study (T2) of individuals
87 with EOS, ADHD, and HC to 23-25 years follow-up. In the late twenties the cognitive functions are
88 supposed to be fully matured (Goddings et al., 2012). If there is no decline between 13-year (T2) to
89 23-25 year follow-up (T3) in the EOS group, it would not support a neurodegeneration progress in
90 EOS. However, if the cognitive decline continues between T2 and T3 in EOS, but not in HC or
91 individuals with ADHD, it may indicate a more general degenerative process in EOS. To the best of

92 our knowledge, no other longitudinal studies have investigated the course of cognitive functioning
93 in adolescents with EOS or ADHD compared to HC over a time period as long as 25 years.

94 The main aim of the present study is to explore the 23-25-year longitudinal course of cognitive
95 outcome in individuals with EOS or ADHD compared to HC. We predict decline or stagnation in
96 the EOS group on a cognitive composite score from T1 to T2, and both stability
97 (neurodevelopmental disorder) and decline (neurodegeneration) are possible trajectories from T2 to
98 T3. We predict stability or improvement in the ADHD group similar to the HC group at all time
99 points.

100

101 **1. MATERIALE AND METHODS**

102 *1.1. Design and procedure*

103 A thorough description of the demographic information of the participants from the baseline study
104 (T1) and the 13-year follow-up study (T2) can be found in earlier publications (Øie and Rund,
105 1999; Oie et al., 2010; Oie et al., 2011). The cross-sectional study at T1 (Øie and Rund, 1999)
106 compared groups of 19 EOS, 20 ADHD, and 30 HC on a comprehensive neuropsychological test
107 battery. All were between 12-18 years at T1. At T1 the EOS group consisted of five female and 14
108 male patients with a mean age of 16.2 years (SD=1.1). Fifteen were inpatients and four were
109 outpatients who had never been inpatients. Five of the patients were receiving standard neuroleptic
110 medication (perphenazine, N=3; thioridazine, N=1; zuclopenthixol, N=1) at the time of testing.
111 Three of the patients were drug-free during testing and for a period of at least 5 days before testing.
112 The mean defined daily dose of neuroleptic medication was 0.7 (SD=0.3) (defined daily dose;
113 WHO Collaborating Centre for Drug Statistics Methodology (Organization)). At T1 the ADHD
114 group consisted of 20 males whose mean age was 14.1 years (SD=1.5). The ADHD group was
115 exclusively male reflecting the fact that ADHD was more commonly diagnosed in boys than girls at
116 T1 (Biederman and Faraone, 2004). All of the ADHD sample were outpatients. None of the patients
117 had a history of psychosis. Comorbidities included oppositional defiant disorder (N=9),
118 developmental reading disorder (N=2), and concurrent oppositional defiant disorder and
119 developmental reading disorder (N=3). Twelve of the participants with ADHD received stimulant
120 medication (11 used methylphenidate, and one used dextroamphetamine). One of the subjects with
121 ADHD received a small dose of haloperidol (1mg/day) due to tics. Medication in the ADHD patient
122 group was discontinued at least 15 hours before testing at both T1, T2 and T3. At T1 the HC group
123 consisted of 14 female and 16 male individuals with a mean age of 15.7 years (SD=1.6). They were
124 significantly older than the ADHD group ($P < 0.05$). The individuals in the HC group were
125 volunteers attending regular schools at T1. They were screened for mental problems using the Child
126 Behavior Checklist (CBCL), and individuals were excluded if they had a higher raw score than 45
127 (Øie & Rund, 1999). Diagnoses in both clinical groups were based on fulfilling the diagnostic
128 criteria of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorder, Third Edition Revised
129 diagnostic criteria by mental health professionals using semistructured clinical interviews and
130 standardized rating scales. In those EOS cases where the diagnosis was uncertain, the diagnosis was
131 re-evaluated 6 months after discharge and 1 year thereafter. All the diagnoses were confirmed.
132 Diagnostic consensus was investigated in a subsample of 13 patients. Two senior psychologists
133 agreed on the specific schizophrenia diagnosis in 12 (92%) of the cases. Disagreements in diagnosis
134 were discussed between the two, to arrive at a consensus diagnosis. Diagnoses of ADHD subtypes
135 were not made at T1, as this disorder was introduced in a later version of DSM. Exclusion criteria at
136 T1 were: substance abuse, head injury with neurological complications, neurological disorder and
137 $IQ < 70$.

138 The individuals were reassessed after 13 years (T2), see Øie et al. for details (Oie et al.,
139 2011) and after 23-25 years (T3). At T2, diagnoses in the EOS group were based on the Structured
140 Clinical Interview for the DSM-IV and information from patients' parents and/or their
141 psychiatrists, nurses, and/or social workers. One psychologist and one psychiatrist reviewed all

142 available information for agreement on the DSM-IV diagnosis. They agreed on the diagnosis in
143 94% of the cases. Disagreements in diagnosis at T2 were discussed between the two, to arrive at a
144 consensus diagnosis. For a detailed description of the demographic information at T3 see Table 1,
145 and see Table 2 for diagnosis at T1-T3. Figure 1 shows the retention and exclusion of patients
146 groups and HC from baseline through the completion of the third follow-up assessment. Since the
147 time of the first clinical presentation (T1), the EOS patients and the ADHD patients received
148 standard treatment (which did not include cognitive training).

149 The T1, T2 and T3 studies were approved by the Regional Committee for Medical Research
150 Ethics in Eastern Norway (REK Øst-Norge REK 1 # 98-05-04,113; 2015/180/REK sør-øst C). The
151 studies were conducted in accordance with the Helsinki Declaration of the World Medical
152 Association Assembly. All subjects were provided written informed consent after receiving a
153 complete description of the study.

154 *INSERT TABLES 1 AND 2 AND FIGURE 1 ABOUT HERE*

155

156 *1.2. Cognitive Assessments*

157 All individuals were retested at T3 with the same comprehensive neuropsychological test battery as
158 used at T1 and T2. A detailed description of the tests and the procedure is given in Øie et al. (Oie et
159 al., 2010;Oie et al., 2011). To reduce the number of statistical comparisons and avoid redundancy,
160 selected test outcome measures were combined into nine cognitive domains according to their
161 putative content, combining the test scores which reflected the same functional domain as described
162 in Øie et al. (Oie et al., 2011). Z scores were computed for all tests using the HC group's raw
163 scores' means and standard deviations at T1. In cases where higher scores indicated dysfunction,
164 their values were inverted to assure that high scores on the composite scores always indicated better
165 function. The nine cognitive domains consisted of the following measures:

166 (1) Executive function: Wisconsin Card Sorting Test: Perseverative responses (Heaton, 1981).

167 (2) Visual memory: Kimura Recurring Figure test: Total correct score (Kimura, 1963).

168 (3) Verbal memory: California Verbal Learning Test, Total correct words at trial A1-5 (Delis et al.,
169 2008).

170 (4) Visuomotor processing: The mean of Trail Making Test A, Trail Making Test B, measured as
171 seconds to complete (Reitan and Wolfson, 2004), and Digit Symbol–Coding from WISC–R
172 (Wechsler, 1974) or from WAIS-III (Wechsler, 2003) measured by number of symbols correctly
173 coded in 120 seconds;

174 (5) Motor coordination: Grooved Pegboard Test: Mean time in seconds to complete for dominant
175 and non-dominant hand (Reitan and Wolfson, 2004).

176 (6) Auditory attention: Seashore Rhythm Test: Mean number of correct answers (Reitan and
177 Wolfson, 1993), Digit Span's maximum span forward and span backward from WISC–R
178 (Wechsler, 1974) or WAIS-III (Wechsler, 2003), and Digit Repetition Test's proportion of correctly
179 repeated digits with and without distracter digits read in between targets (Oltmanns and Neale,
180 1975).

181 (7) Selective attention: Dichotic Listening task: Mean number of correct right ear answers from the
182 Forced Right condition, and number of correct left ear answers from the Forced Left condition
183 (Hugdahl and Andersson, 1986).

184 (8) Visual attention: Backward Masking task: Mean number of correctly identified digits at the 33
185 ms and the 49-ms interstimulus intervals (Rund et al., 1996).

186 (9) Estimated IQ: The WISC–R (T1) and the Wechsler Abbreviated Scale of Intelligence (T2 and T3)
187 subtests Similarities and Block design were used to calculate estimated full-scale IQ (Wechsler,
188 2007).

189 The individual cognitive domains were embraced in a composite score because research indicates
190 that the largest amount of variance in cognition deficits in schizophrenia appears to be explained by

191 a global cognitive measure (Rund et al., 2016). The cognitive composite score was calculated as the
 192 average of the nine cognitive domains.

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194 *1.3.Data analysis*

195 Demographic and clinical characteristics of the baseline groups were compared by the Fisher exact
 196 probability test (nominal variables) and analysis of variance (ANOVA) (continuous variables), the
 197 latter followed-up by Scheffe’s post hoc tests for group comparisons when adequate. Linear Mixed
 198 Models (LMM) was used for longitudinal analysis of individual time course, and to relate change
 199 over time to different covariates, in particular group affiliation, HC, EOS, and ADHD. Estimation
 200 was based on maximum likelihood (ml) and restricted maximum likelihood (reml), with piecewise
 201 linear splines, with one knot at T2 (13 years). Separate random intercepts and slopes were fitted in
 202 the first (baseline – 13 years) and second (13 – 25 years) period, respectively. Parameters of main
 203 interest were the fixed effect interaction terms time × group, prior to and following the knot,
 204 contrasting the changes in the groups over time. Separate analyses were done with the HC- and the
 205 EOS group as reference, to assess all three group-comparisons. The Loss to follow-up was small
 206 (see results section), and the usual missing at random assumption (MAR) was thought to be
 207 reasonable (the “intention-to-treat” analysis was compared with complete-case). Assessment of fit
 208 was done by residuals and outlier checks. Analyses were conducted using the statistical package
 209 SPSS for Windows, version 25 (SPSS, Inc., Chicago, IL).

210

211 **2. RESULTS**

212 In the first period (baseline – 13 years), both the HC and ADHD groups improved (positive slope,
 213 main effect) while the EOS group decreased (Table 3). Compared to the HC group, the EOS group
 214 had a significantly worse change, with -0.053 units of the Composite score on average per year
 215 ($p < 0.001$, 95 % CI: -0.079, -0.028) (Table 3, Figure 2). The EOS group also had a significantly
 216 worse change than the ADHD group, with a difference of 0.053 units of the Composite score on
 217 average per year in favor of the ADHD group ($p < 0.001$, 95 % CI: 0.026, 0.08) – EOS as reference
 218 (data not shown). In the second period, however, the EOS group had the most positive change, with
 219 the HC group slightly decreasing over time, while the patient groups both had an increase. Both the
 220 patient groups had a significant better change than the HC group, with a difference of 0.02 units of
 221 the Composite score on average per year for the ADHD group ($p < 0.05$, 95% CI: 0.003, 0.04) and
 222 0.03 units on average per year for the EOS group ($p < 0.01$, 95% CI: 0.01, 0.05) (Table 3). The EOS
 223 group also had a more positive change than the ADHD group, but not significant (data not shown).
 224 The effect size estimate ($\eta^2 = .11$) for the Composite score indicates a major different trajectory
 225 between groups. For the EOS group, the change from T1 to T3 was not significant (Cohen’s $d =$
 226 0.13), but for the HC group and the ADHD group, there was a significant and large improvement
 227 from T1 to T3 (HC; Cohen’s $d = 1.05$, and ADHD; Cohen’s $d = 1.03$).

228 See Tables 4 and Table 5 for results on the individual cognitive tests and cognitive domains,
 229 and differences between groups over time for those individuals that participated on all the test
 230 points (i.e. without the individuals that died or declined to be retested).

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INSERT TABLE 3, 4, 5 AND FIGURE 2 ABOUT HERE

236 **3. DISCUSSION**

237 As predicted, the EOS group had a significant stagnation or deterioration on the composite score in
 238 the first period from T1 to T2 compared to HC. However, in contrast to our expectation, the EOS
 239 group had the most positive change in the second period (from T2 to T3), with the HC group

240 slightly decreasing over time. The results do not support a neurodegenerative model of EOS but
241 suggest a premature arrest, or slowing, of normal cognitive development occurring mainly in their
242 twenties, but no decline after that. Thus, our results support the neurodevelopmental model of EOS
243 (Rund, 2018). As expected, the individuals in the EOS group performed more impaired on the
244 cognitive composite score compared to the HC group and the ADHD group at all three time points.

245 The cognitive maturation in the ADHD group was not significantly different from the HC
246 group from T1 to T2, but they continued to improve on the composite score compared to the HC
247 group from T2 to T3. Thus, we found that cognition continues to mature in the ADHD group after
248 the mid-20s which is considered the “peak” of executive functions development (De Luca and
249 Leventer, 2010). Our results support a model of ADHD that indicate a cognitive developmental lag
250 that reduces with age. In a separate study on the same individuals, we found a selective decline in
251 performance from T2 to T3 for the ADHD group compared to the HC group on a working memory
252 test (Torgalsbøen et al., 2019). Thus, the individuals in the ADHD group continued to display
253 working memory deficits, also in adulthood.

254 The EOS group had a significant worse cognitive change compared to the ADHD group in
255 the first period, while in the second period both the patient groups had a significantly better change
256 compared to HC. The cognitive results support the notion that both EOS and ADHD are
257 neurodevelopmental disorders, but that the EOS group stagnates in their cognitive development for
258 a period from adolescence to young adulthood (T1 to T2), while the ADHD group has a more
259 consistent cognitive maturation up to our last measure time point at T3. Further, the ADHD group
260 seems to catch up with the HC group in their thirties (T3) regarding most cognitive functions, but
261 the EOS group does not. Thus, our data support a maturational delay hypothesis of the pathogenesis
262 of ADHD (Shaw et al., 2007) compared to a deviation from normal cognitive development in the
263 twenties in EOS (Oie et al., 2010).

264 What can explain why the EOS group did not have the same cognitive trajectory as the HC
265 and the ADHD group in the first period, but a more positive development in cognition in the second
266 period? The individuals in the EOS group became ill at a young age. Early onset of the illness and
267 cognitive difficulties may halt their development in social and academic areas. Brain functions
268 mature extensively during adolescence to early adulthood through continuous interactions with the
269 environment (Casey et al., 2008; Sakurai et al., 2015). The individuals with EOS become seriously
270 ill in this important maturation period, and at the same time, they also have to cope with psychotic
271 symptoms and having a serious illness. This may have led to high levels of stress interacting with
272 the disease process leading to disrupted normal development of brain functions. We have earlier
273 reported that the individuals with EOS at T1 had considerably higher levels of internalizing
274 problems including depressive symptoms compared to the HC group and the ADHD group (Oie et
275 al., 2011). When depression is investigated longitudinally in schizophrenia, up to 80% of patients
276 experience a clinically significant depressive episode at one or more time points during the early
277 phase (Upthegrove et al., 2017). Depression may negatively affect cognition (Douglas and Porter,
278 2009). A longitudinal study on depressive symptoms in adults with first episode of schizophrenia
279 has reported that depressive symptoms decreased during a 10 year follow-up period (Sönmez et al.,
280 2016). Thus, both stress and depression in the EOS group during the first period may have
281 negatively affected the cognitive functions more than in the second period. It may be that the
282 cognitive functions are more vulnerable to negative environmental and/or illness factors in the time
283 period from T1 to T2 and that the cognitive development is interrupted. After many years with
284 illness (T3), the EOS group may have learned how to live better with their illness, experiencing less
285 depression and stress and to have more capacity to efficiently use their cognitive resources.

286 In contrast, it is reasonable to believe that adolescents with ADHD are more often at
287 school and with friends, and are more exposed to various stimuli than individuals with EOS.
288 Several of the patients in the current EOS group moved away from home to stay in institutions,
289 while in the ADHD group they could all continue to live at home and in familiar surroundings.
290 Schizophrenia is regarded as a more serious illness than ADHD, and there is also more knowledge
291 in the population about ADHD because it is a more common disorder. Thus, the ADHD group may

25-Year Follow-up Study

292 have experienced less stress and less comorbid depression, and less interruption with the cognitive
293 maturation, in the first period compared to the EOS group. It is also possible that adolescents with
294 EOS receive less help and facilitation for cognitive difficulties compared to adolescents with
295 ADHD.

296 Strengths of the study include a long follow-up time (23-25 years), a relatively high
297 retention rate (19/20 ADHD individuals, 26/30 HC), and inclusion of the same HC group at the
298 three time points. The inclusion of HC makes it possible to determine whether the trajectory found
299 in the patient groups was different from the normal cognitive maturation. The cognitive test battery
300 constituted a comprehensive cognitive assessment, and the same test battery was administered at all
301 three time points. Further, the long intervals between assessments may minimize practice effects.
302 The drop-out of some of the individuals was to some extent accounted for in the LMM under the
303 MAR assumption.

304 The small patient sample sizes limit the generalizability of our results and reduce the
305 statistical power to detect changes in cognitive performance. The small sample size is due to the
306 lower incidence and prevalence of EOS. The ADHD group consisted of only males. Further,
307 another limitation is that there was a significant difference in age distribution between the ADHD
308 and HC groups. In the analyses, we did not control for the use of medication, and this could
309 possibly have affected the cognitive results. However, a meta-analysis of randomized clinical trials
310 of second-generation antipsychotic effects on cognition in patients with schizophrenia did not show
311 any drug having a uniform positive cognitive profile (Nielsen et al., 2015). Further, changes in
312 symptoms may possibly have an impact on the changes in cognition. We decided to include all
313 available individuals from the EOS and the ADHD groups regardless of whether they had recovered
314 and did not meet the diagnostic criteria for schizophrenia or ADHD at follow-up (T3). We also
315 included the recovered individuals because this was in accordance with what was done in the 13-
316 year longitudinal follow-up and because the primary objective of the study was to investigate how
317 cognition in adolescents with EOS or ADHD developed over time regardless of diagnostic status at
318 follow-up. Several studies have shown that it is possible for patients with schizophrenia to recover
319 (Hegelstad et al., 2012; Jääskeläinen et al., 2013; Lally et al., 2017; Torgalsbøen et al., 2018). The
320 percentage of those who recover varies from 15-55 percent depending on the criteria used for
321 recovery. Thus, our three clinical recovered cases out of 19 are in line with other research.
322 Furthermore, analyzes with ANOVA showed that there were no significant mean differences
323 between the recovered and the non-recovered individuals on the Composite scores at T1, T2, or T3.
324 Another possible limitation might be that the individuals in the EOS group who either died or
325 declined to be re-tested could be the more severe cases. However, we have no information
326 indicating that this was the case. Due to data protection privacy concerns, we could not describe
327 these patients in further detail. On the other hand, it is also possible that they declined because they
328 are doing well and do not want to be reminded of their previous illness. Thus, it is difficult to
329 establish the reasons why individuals decline to participate in follow-up studies. Also, as shown in
330 Table 5, the average of the Composite score at T1, T2, and T3 in the EOS group without the
331 individuals who died or declined to be retested, are quite similar to those shown in Figure 2. There
332 are some disadvantages to using Composite scores as they may mask important differences apparent
333 in the individual cognitive domains, which may have changed in different directions. It is also
334 possible that non-cognitive factors such as anxiety and effort in the test situation may have affected
335 the test results.

336 Using WCST Perseverative responses as the sole measure of executive functioning may also
337 be regarded as a limitation. WCST lacks cognitive specificity as performance has been associated
338 with deficits in set-shifting, working memory, and general cognitive ability (Donohoe et al., 2005).
339 As such, the scores presented do not fully represent a composite index of "executive functioning",
340 but only one facet of executive functioning. In addition, the significantly lower T2 and T3 scores
341 for WCST Perseverative responses for the ADHD group and the HC group may overestimate
342 "executive functioning" performance because they might develop test strategies and remember the

25-Year Follow-up Study

343 test items better than people with schizophrenia and therefore perform better in the second and third
344 assessment (Chiu and Lee, 2019). As such, the differences between the EOS group versus the
345 ADHD and HC groups for T2 and T3 WCST performance may not reflect changes in Executive
346 Functioning in any of the groups.

347 In conclusion, our results might indicate a neurodevelopmental pathway of EOS with
348 subnormal cognitive development specific in adolescence. In comparison, the ADHD group had a
349 more consistent cognitive maturation supporting a maturational delay hypothesis of ADHD. Our
350 results may underline the importance of treatment strategies to alleviate the subnormal development
351 of cognitive functions and improve the relatively stable cognitive deficits in the early illness phase
352 of EOS. However, our results must be interpreted with caution due to small patient sample sizes
353 and other possible limitations.

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Contributions

BRR planned the baseline study, while MØ planned the follow-up studies. MØ undertook the literature search, collected the data in the baseline and the follow-up studies and wrote the first draft of the paper. MØ and OK conducted the statistical analyses. KS assisted with statistical analysis. All authors made contributions to interpretations and content, and all approved the final manuscript.

Declaration of competing interest

The authors report no conflicts of interest.

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603**Table 1. Demographics at T3**

Variable	EOS		ADHD		HC		ANOVA		Scheffe
	N=10		(n=19)		(n=26)		(df=2,52) F	p	
Sex (male / female)	6 / 4		19/0		13/13			.001	(Fisher)
Hand dominance (R / L)	10 / 0		16/3		25/1			.583	(Fisher)
	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	Mean	SD			
Age (y)	38.4	1.1	36.5	1.6	37.9	1.6	6.4	.003	A<S,HC
Education (y)	10.8	1.5	12.4	2.5	15.7	1.4	29.3	<.001	S,A<HC
Mother's education (y) ^{a)}	13.3	1.7	12.6	2.5	14.7	2.5	4.0	.016	A<HC
FSIQ (WASI) ^{b)}	94.0	20.5	110.1	10.5	115.1	8.3	10.7	<.001	S<A,HC
GAS ^{c)}									
Symptom									
Function BPRS ^{d)}	55.66	18.3	70.3	11.8	81.0	8.0	17.6	<.001	S<A,HC
Positive	54.9	18.8	71.5	13.6	83.8	6.2	21.7	<.001	S<A<HC
Negative	10.6	5.4							
Total	5.7	2.6							
ASRS ^{e)}	40.4	11.9	27.8	13.7					
Medication									
DDD ^{f)}	2.4	2.15	1.8	0.7					
Typical antipsychotic	n=1		-						
Atypical –“ –	n=4		n=1						
Both –“ –	n=2		-						
Stimulants	-		n=3						
Antidepressant	n=2		n=1						
Benzodiazepine	n=1		n=1						
Moodstabilizer	n=2		-						

604 Note: EOS= Early Onset Schizophrenia, ADHD=Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, HC= Healthy
605 Controls606 ^{a)} Measured at T2607 ^{b)} Full Scale IQ from the Wechsler Abbreviated Scale of Intelligence, one person in EOS group missing608 ^{c)} Global Assessment Scale609 ^{d)} Brief Psychiatric Rating Scale (Positive Scale = 7 items, Negative Scale = 3 items)610 ^{e)} Adult ADHD Self-Report Scale (ASRS)611 ^{f)} Defined Daily Doses (WHO Collaborating Centre for Drug Statistics Methodology), EOS: n=7, ADHD:
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618 **Table 2. Diagnoses at T1, T2 and T3 in the EOS group and the ADHD group**

EOS group	T1	T2	T3
1	schizophrenia disorganized	schizophrenia disorganized	schizophrenia disorganized
2	schizophrenia disorganized	schizophrenia disorganized	schizophrenia disorganized
3	schizophrenia disorganized	schizophrenia disorganized	schizophrenia disorganized
4	schizophrenia paranoid	schizophrenia paranoid	schizophrenia paranoid
5	schizophrenia paranoid	schizophrenia paranoid	schizophrenia paranoid
6	schizophrenia disorganized	schizophrenia disorganized	schizoaffective disorder
7	schizophrenia undifferentiated	schizoaffective disorder	schizoaffective disorder
8	schizophrenia disorganized	schizophrenia disorganized	schizoaffective disorder
9	schizophreniform disorder	recovered	recovered
10	schizophrenia paranoid	recovered	recovered
11	schizophrenia disorganized	schizophrenia disorganized	schizophrenia disorganized unwilling to be tested
12	schizophrenia disorganized	recovered	unwilling to consent or unable to contact
13	schizophrenia disorganized	schizophrenia paranoid	unwilling to consent or unable to contact
14	delusional disorder	unwilling to consent or unable to contact	unwilling to consent or unable to contact
15	schizoaffective disorder	unwilling to consent or unable to contact	unwilling to consent or unable to contact

25-Year Follow-up Study

16	schizophrenia disorganized	schizophrenia disorganized	deceased
17	schizophrenia disorganized	schizophrenia paranoid	deceased
18	schizophrenia paranoid	deceased	deceased
19	schizophrenia disorganized	deceased	deceased
ADHD group	T1	T2	T3
1	ADHD	ADHD	ADHD
2	ADHD	ADHD	ADHD
3	ADHD	ADHD	ADHD
4	ADHD	ADHD	ADHD
5	ADHD	ADHD	ADHD
6	ADHD	ADHD	ADHD
7	ADHD	ADHD	ADHD
8	ADHD	ADHD	ADHD
9	ADHD	ADHD	ADHD
10	ADHD	ADHD	ADHD
11	ADHD	ADHD	ADHD
12	ADHD	ADHD	recovered
13	ADHD	ADHD	recovered
14	ADHD	ADHD	recovered
15	ADHD	ADHD	recovered
16	ADHD	recovered	recovered
17	ADHD	recovered	recovered
18	ADHD	recovered	recovered
19	ADHD	recovered	recovered
20	ADHD	deceased	deceased

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622 **Table 3. Fixed effects in a Linear Mixed Model (LMM) with outcomes of Cognitive Composite**
 623 **score, with follow-up over 23-25 years in groups of HC (n=30), EOS (n=19), and ADHD**
 624 **(n=20)**

Cognitive Composite score			
	Estimate	SE	95% CI
<i>Main effect group</i>			
ADHD	-0.68 **	ADHD	-0.68 **
EOS	-1.02***	EOS	-1.02***
HC	0 (Ref)		
<i>Main effect time</i>			
Time ≤ 13 years	0.034***	0.007	0.019, 0.049
Time > 13 years	-0.008	0.005	-0.019, 0.003
<i>Interaction, group×time ≤ 13 years</i>			
ADHD	-0.0004	0.011	-0.024, 0.023
EOS	-0.05***	0.013	-0.079, -0.028
HC	0 (Ref)		
<i>Interaction, group×time > 13 years</i>			
ADHD	0.02*	0.008	0.003, 0.04
EOS	0.03**	0.01	0.01, 0.05
HC	0 (Ref)		

625 Note. †: adjusted for education at baseline, *:p≤0.05, **: p≤0.01, ***: p≤0.001

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644 **Table 4. Cognitive test scores at T1, T2 and T3 for individuals in the EOS, ADHD and HC groups participating at all three test times**

	EOS N=10						ADHD N=19						HC N=26						Group df=2,52		Time df=2,51		Time x Group df=4,102			
Domains	T1 Mean	SD	T2 Mean	SD	T3 Mean	SD	T1 Mean	SD	T2 Mean	SD	T3 Mean	SD	T1 Mean	SD	T2 Mean	SD	T3 Mean	SD	F	p	F	p	F	p	η ²	
Executive function																										
<i>WCST</i>																										
Perseverative r	20.9	11.4	22.6	15.3	16.7	10.2	19.0	8.4	12.4	5.0	8.7	4.9	15.9	6.5	9.7	4.9	6.7	3.9	9.8	.001	19.6	.001	1.4	.238	.06	
Visual memory																										
<i>Kimura</i>																										
Recognition	25.7	11.3	26.6	10.5	28.4	6.4	34.7	10.3	31.7	9.1	33.0	8.9	38.9	6.4	37.2	6.3	38.4	7.6	10.5	.001	0.9	.415	0.3	.856	.01	
Verbal memory																										
<i>CVLT</i>																										
Total 1-5	54.8	10.5	46.9	11.3	48.5	9.6	50.4	9.0	51.6	6.9	51.7	9.4	59.9	8.0	61.5	8.9	55.5	8.9	9.0	.001	2.3	.107	4.2	.004	.14	
Visuomotor Processing																										
<i>TMT A</i>	30.1	11.1	30.8	11.4	33.6	9.0	27.0	5.2	26.8	7.7	22.5	7.6	23.6	6.2	20.7	5.3	21.7	5.0	11.6	.001	0.3	.733	3.1	.017	.11	
<i>TMT B</i>	77.3	20.3	74.4	42.7	90.2	51.6	80.0	31.9	62.1	21.7	56.3	19.9	60.7	20.4	45.6	13.9	55.4	22.4	5.8	.006	8.4	.001	2.8	.029	.10	
<i>Digit Symbol Correct</i>	71.2	16.9	85.2	12.1	86.7	12.8	64.8	17.2	65.5	16.0	63.9	17.3	88.05	17.4	85.2	12.1	86.7	12.8	20.0	.001	6.3	.004	2.5	.049	.09	
Motor Coordination																										
<i>Grooved Peg</i>																										
Dominant	71.3	9.6	73.3	27.3	73.0	18.5	66.6	11.6	65.6	11.3	62.1	10.4	59.7	8.4	54.7	7.5	54.0	5.3	11.4	.001	2.6	.085	1.2	.290	.05	
Nondominant	89.3	19.1	94.6	58.6	84.9	28.8	78.2	14.4	74.4	18.9	70.6	18.5	69.5	8.4	63.8	8.3	62.0	9.4	7.7	.001	7.2	.002	.41	.798	.02	
Auditory Attention																										
<i>Sheashore</i>																										
Correct	24.8	2.3	23.2	5.9	24.8	4.2	25.3	3.0	26.0	2.1	25.5	2.9	27.0	3.1	27.2	2.9	27.3	2.5	4.2	.020	0.8	.469	2.1	.090	.08	
<i>Digit Span</i>																										
Forward max	5.7	1.0	5.6	1.1	6.2	1.0	5.8	1.2	6.1	1.4	6.1	1.3	6.3	1.3	6.5	1.2	6.7	1.3	2.1	.131	2.8	.069	.6	.624	.03	
Backward max	4.2	2.0	4.2	1.3	4.6	1.5	3.9	1.0	4.3	1.1	4.6	1.3	4.7	1.4	4.5	1.3	4.8	0.9	1.1	.350	2.4	.102	.6	.649	.025	
<i>Digit Repetition</i>																										
Without dist	74.8	22.7	81.0	13.9	80.9	16.3	66.6	20.0	83.0	8.9	81.3	13.9	86.7	10.9	88.7	8.2	89.7	8.2	3.9	.026	0.2	.001	1.9	.122	.07	
With dist	71.7	23.4	83.4	15.7	81.0	18.6	63.3	22.0	83.9	13.6	75.7	18.6	83.2	14.7	93.7	7.7	89.6	10.0	6.3	.004	0.1	.001	3.2	.017	.11	
Selective Attention																										
<i>Dichotic List</i>																										
FR, REA	13.1	4.2	13.2	2.0	15.3	6.1	16.2	4.6	19.1	4.9	19.6	3.7	15.1	4.3	20.3	4.3	19.6	4.1	7.2	.002	10.6	.001	2.3	.065	.082	
FL, LEA	14.3	14.3	12.6	4.9	12.6	6.8	14.0	4.8	13.8	6.0	14.3	4.6	13.7	3.8	17.5	4.9	14.9	5.5	1.6	.205	0.6	.574	2.2	.076	.079	
Visual Attention																										

25-Year Follow-up Study

<i>Backward masking</i>																									
33 ms	5.5	2.6	6.9	5.9	4.2	2.4	3.9	3.1	9.1	5.3	5.5	4.5	5.5	4.1	7.7	3.3	6.5	3.6	0.3	.720	10.3	.001	2.4	.053	.09
49 ms	7.4	3.7	8.8	5.0	6.0	2.5	7.2	5.3	10.9	5.0	7.6	3.9	10.2	5.0	9.2	5.1	9.0	4.7	1.0	.371	3.3	.044	2.5	.045	.09

645 Note: Executive function: Wisconsin Card Sorting Test: Perseverative responses; Visual memory: Kimura Recurring Figure test: Total correct score;
 646 Verbal memory: California Verbal Learning Test, Total correct words at trial A1-5; Visuomotor processing: The mean of Trail Making Test A, Trail
 647 Making Test B, measured as seconds to, and Digit Symbol–Coding from WAIS-III measured by number of symbols correctly coded in 120 seconds;
 648 Motor coordination: Grooved Pegboard Test: Mean time in seconds to complete for dominant and nondominant hand; Auditory attention: Seashore
 649 Rhythm Test: Mean number of correct answers, Digit Span’s maximum span forward and span backward from WAIS-III, and Digit Repetition Test’s
 650 proportion of correctly repeated digits with and without distracter digits read in between targets; Selective attention: Dichotic Listening task: Mean
 651 number of correct right ear answers from the Forced Right condition, and number of correct left ear answers from the Forced Left condition; Visual
 652 attention: Backward Masking task: Mean number of correctly identified digits at the 33 ms and the 49-ms interstimulus intervals.

653 Due to missing data on some tests, the number of individuals in each within each group will vary slightly on some domains/Composite score.

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25-Year Follow-up Study

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Table 5. Cognitive Domain Scores and Composite score at T1, T2 and T3 for individuals in the EOS, ADHD and the HC groups participating all three test times

	EOS N=10						ADHD N=19						HC N=26						Group df=2,50		Time df=2,49		Time x Group df=2,49		
Cognitive domains	T1 Mean	SD	T2 Mean	SD	T3 Mean	SD	T1 Mean	SD	T2 Mean	SD	T3 Mean	SD	T1 Mean	SD	T2 Mean	SD	T3 Mean	SD	F	p	F	p	F	p	η ²
Executive function	-.90	1.7	-.92	2.1	-.21	1.6	-.49	1.1	.52	.68	1.1	.69	-.05	.99	.97	.69	1.39	.55	10.78	.000	24.49	.505	1.25	.294	.05
Visual memory	-2.08	1.7	-1.94	1.6	-1.65	1.0	-.67	1.6	-1.13	1.4	-.93	1.4	-.01	1.0	-.28	.98	-.09	1.18	10.48	.000	.98	.036	.33	.856	.01
Verbal memory	-.66	1.3	-1.63	1.4	-1.43	1.2	-1.20	1.1	-1.05	.85	-1.04	1.2	-.04	.98	.15	1.1	-.57	1.1	8.94	.000	2.33	.107	4.15	.004	.14
Visuomotor processing	-.97	.94	-.91	1.5	-1.22	1.6	-.97	1.0	-.19	1.0	.23	1.0	.00	.80	.97	.71	.80	.83	14.16	.000	9.8	.000	5.19	.001	.18
Motor coordination	-1.6	1.4	-2.03	4.7	-1.47	2.5	-.76	1.3	-.49	1.6	-.10	1.5	.09	.77	.67	.79	.81	.74	9.68	.000	6.98	.002	.49	.745	.01
Auditory Attention	.77	1.0	-.60	1.1	-.37	1.0	-1.0	1.0	-.25	.65	-.40	.95	-.05	.73	.18	.63	.20	.58	5.65	.006	10.29	.001	2.44	.052	.09
Selective Attention	-.23	.75	-.42	.50	-.16	.63	.12	.98	.47	1.05	.59	.78	-.05	.89	1.07	1.02	.66	1.08	4.65	.014	3.73	.031	3.45	.011	.12
Visual Attention	-.29	.63	.01	1.2	-.59	.45	-.52	.84	.49	1.09	-.27	.90	-.03	.93	.14	.84	-.01	.85	.66	.523	7.53	.001	3.07	.020	.11
Estimated IQ	-1.1	1.2	-1.29	1.2	1.26	1.4	-.62	.82	-.50	.55	-.20	.68	.01	1.0	.08	.56	.13	.52	10.15	.000	2.72	.076	1.89	.118	.07
Composite Score	-1.0	.76	-1.02	1.3	-.88	1.1	-.71	.61	-.25	.51	-.13	.51	-.01	.42	.48	.37	.40	.36	18.3	.000	14.5	.000	2.75	.033	.11

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682 Note: Due to missing data on some tests, the number of individuals in each within each group will vary slightly on some domains/Composite score.

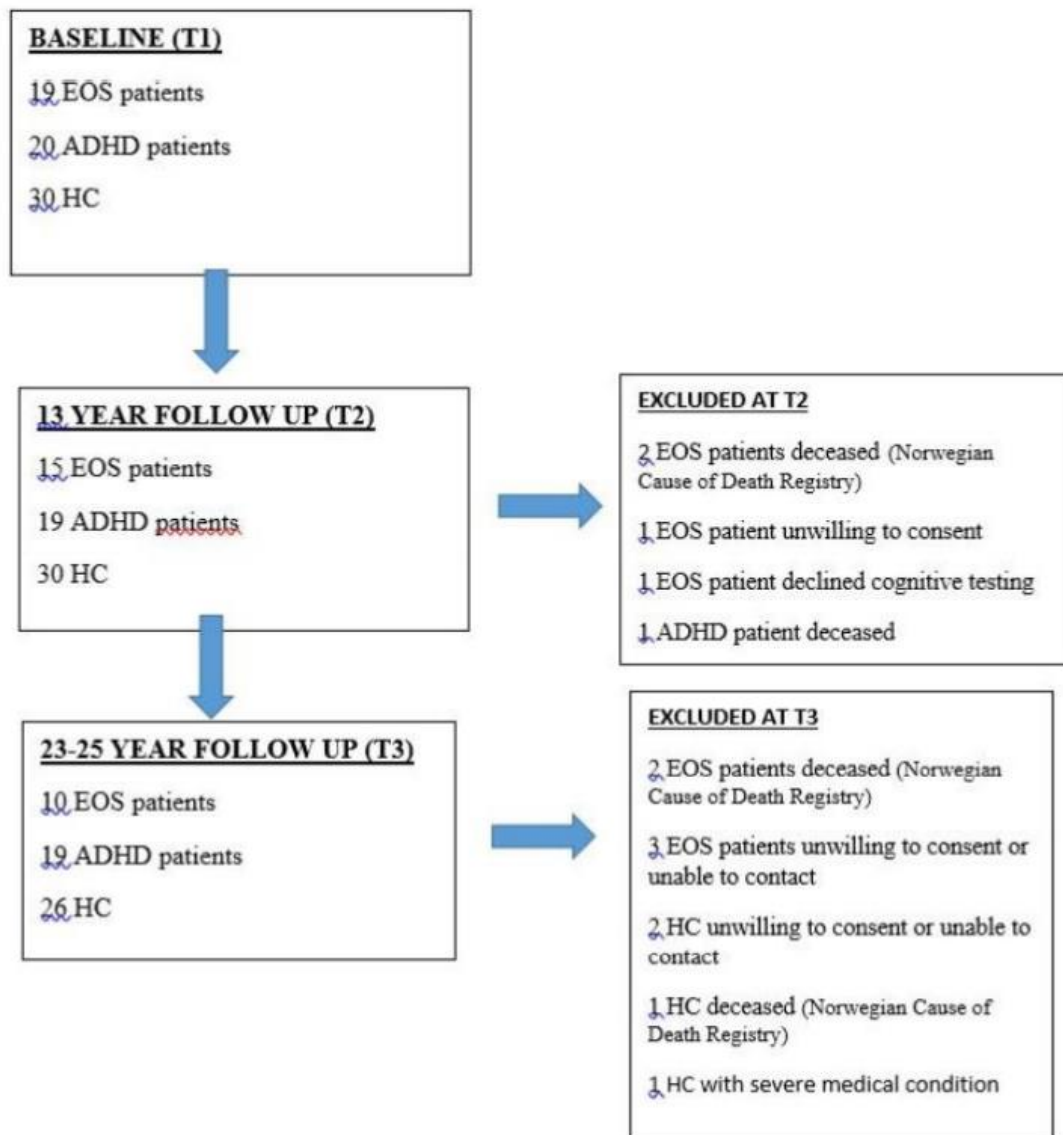
683 **Figure 1. Retention of individuals in the EOS and ADHD groups and HC from baseline to**
684 **follow-up assessments**

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FIGURE 1 |



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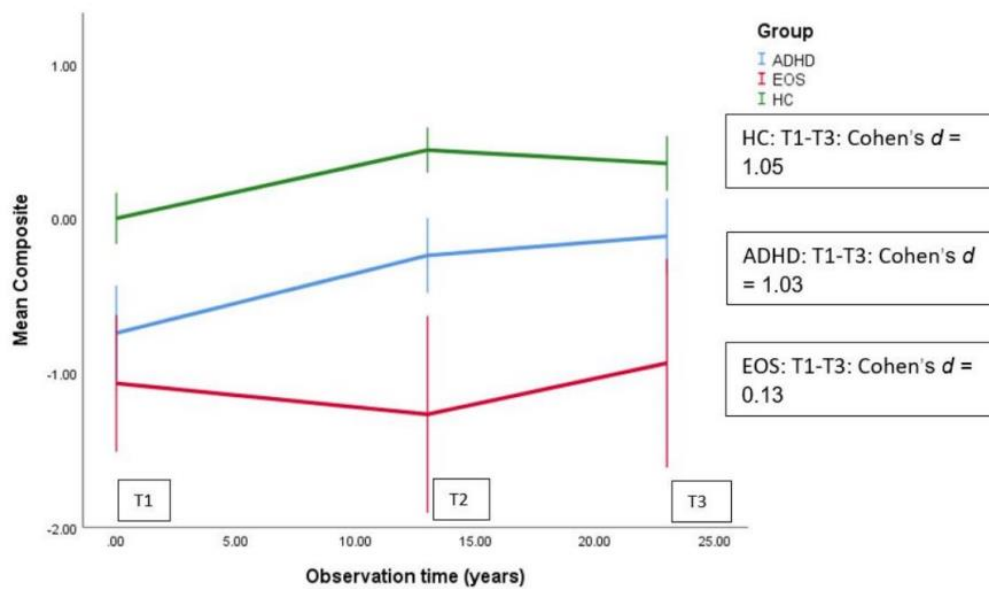
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699 **Figure 2. Linear Mixed Models (LMM) used for longitudinal analysis of mean Cognitive**
700 **Composite score over 25 years in groups of HC (n=30), EOS (n=19) and ADHD (n=20).**

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FIGURE 2



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