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The group after group - what happens after the long-term psychotherapy group ends

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Learning Goal:

Maintenance of social and interpersonal functioning of schizophrenic patients after the ending of long-term psychotherapy groups.

Abstract Text:

Schizophrenia and other psychotic conditions are life-long processes with potentially chronic or debilitating outcome. Psychosocial dysfunction in psychosis is the primary concern of therapeutic engagement and interventions in psychodynamic psychotherapy. Because these patients often experience hallucinations and delusions, have difficulties testing reality, lead isolated lives group psychotherapy seems a natural treatment consideration. With all this in mind, life-long psychotherapy should be a natural choice, although in practice it is not indicated or possible. In this paper the social and interpersonal functioning of schizophrenic patients after the ending of long-term psychotherapy groups is described. The former group members provide the reality testing function when needed or function as the part of the supporting social network for each other years after the completion of psychotherapeutic treatment. The groups were the part of the outpatient program for patients with psychosis in Psychiatric hospital "Sveti Ivan".

**ON THE HEALING POWER
OF HUMAN RECONNECTION**