**Supplemental Table 2. Characteristics of reviewed studies on symptomatology. Sample age at the first measurement point is reported if not stated otherwise. Symptom progression is coded as follows: ↑ - improvement, ↓ - decline, ○ - mixed, = - stable. Positive (P) and negative (N) symptom changes are reported separately. Abbreviations: AMPD - Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Methodik und Dokumentation, CASH - Comprehensive Assessment of Symptoms and History, PANSS – Positive and Negative Syndrome Scale, SADS - Schedule for Affective Disorders and Schizophrenia, SANS - Scale for the Assessment of Negative Symptoms , SAPS - Scale for the Assessment of Positive Symptoms.**

| Reference | # SZ/CON | % Male, SZ/CON | Mean age (SD), SZ/CON  | Follow-up duration  | SZ sample characteristics | Progression | Instrument |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| *Short-term follow-up studies (~5 years or shorter)* |  |
| Arndt et al. (1995)7  | 65/-  | 77/- | 24.2 (5.2)/- | 0.5-2 years | Young, acutely ill  | P↑/N= | CASH |
| Gur et al. (1998)8 | 20/20/17a | 55/60/76a | 27.8 (8.2)/30.6 (7.7)/31.9 (8.9)a | 15-68 months | First-episode and chronic | P↑/N↑ | SAPS/SANS |
| Reske et al. (2007)9  | 10/10  | 60/60  | 37.4 (6.6)/35.3 (8.7) | 2 years  | First-episode | P↑/N= | PANSS |
| Wang et al. (2008)10  | 56/62  | 66/55  | 36.6 (12.9)/36.2(14.5) | 0.8-5.3 years | Adult patients, large age-range  | P=/N↑ | SAPS/SANS |
| Maïza et al. (2011)11 | 10/10  | 80/80 | 34.2 (10.1)/34.2 (9.1) | On average 21 months | Chronic  | P=/N= | PANSS |
| Cobia et al. (2012)12 | 20/20 | 50/55  | 30.1 (11.1)/ 30.4 (12.8) | On average 2 years  | ?, probably first-episode and chronic | P=/N= | SAPS/SANS |
| *Long-term follow-up studies* |  |
| Möller et al. (2010)13 | 57b/74c  | ?/?d | ? (?)/? (?)d | 15 years  | Young, followed after first admission | P↑/N= | AMPD system |
| Rosen et al. (2011)14  | 59/27e | 61/52e | 23 (3.4)/24 (6.3)e  | 20 years  | Young, mainly early in disease | P○ | Based on SADS |
| Goghari et al. (2012)15 | 51/49f | 67/41f | 23.1 (3.5)/23.2 (3.4)f  | 20 years | Young  | P↑ | SADS |
| *SZ in late adulthood* |  |
| Harvey et al. (1996)16 | 174/-  | 55/-  | 75.3 (6.8)/- | 1 year  | Geriatric chronic SZ | P=/N↓ | PANSS |
| McGurk et al (2000)17 | 168/-  | 48/- | 74.2 (6.6)/-  | 15 months  | Geriatric chronic poor outcome  | P↑/N= | PANSS |

a the study investigated first-episode and chronic patients as well as healthy controls. The sample sizes are reported in this order.

b diagnoses were made both according to DSM-IV and ICD-10. The sample whose size is reported here was diagnosed according to DSM-IV.

c the comparison group consisted of individuals suffering from mania, bipolar disorder and depression.

d the study investigated several different mental disorders. The mean age of the total sample (n=321; 231 female) was 35 years (SD 13.1).

e the comparison group consisted of patients with bipolar disorder.

f the study compared several patient groups, the control sample size stated refers to the depressive group.