Summary

Cerebral lateralization is a major determining process of the organization of the human brain and is related with several functioning disorders. Handedness and other lateral preferences like eyedness and footedness as well as sex may be factors related with cerebral lateralization. It has been reported that schizophrenia patients have an elevated incidence of non-right handedness. Lateral preferences and sex are also found to be related with schizotypal personality. Schizophrenia and schizotypal personality disorder are genetically linked, moreover, schizotypal personality does not have the potentially confounding features of schizophrenia, including chronic illness, medication, and hospitalization, thus, schizotypal personality may offer a clearer picture of the schizophrenia spectrum. Most of the studies on schizotypal personality have been conducted in western societies and there are few studies in Asian societies, however, there is no known work in India on this issue. The present study seeks to understand the relationship of lateral preferences and sex with schizotypal personality on an Indian sample.

A sample of 588 students and faculty members (Male, n = 313; Female, n = 275) with mean age of 22.4 years (SD = 3.5, range = 17 to 35 years) were selected from colleges of Muzaffarnagar based on availability. Schizotypal personality was assessed using SPQ questionnaire and lateral preferences assessed using a 24 items composite questionnaire.

Present study reports that non-right-handers have higher schizotypal scores than right-handers. Male participants score higher than female participants on the cognitive-perceptual and the odd-behavior dimensions of schizotypal personality. Men have higher schizotypal score than women in the categories of mixed- and right-
handers, whereas women have higher schizotypal scores than men among left-handers. It is also found that participants with concordant hand-eye preference have relatively higher schizotypal scores than discordant hand-eye preference participants.

The results of present study clearly show that the effects of concordant or discordant lateral preferences on schizotypal personality are not tied to the direction of preference. The present study favors genetic determination of the relationship between lateral preferences and schizotypal personality scores.