Introduction
Persecutory delusion is a common subtype of delusions characterised by anticipation of threat. Cognitive and affective processes play important roles throughout the experience of persecutory delusions (Freeman, 2007; Garety & Freeman, 2013). The present research focused on investigating paranoid individuals' appraisal of everyday experiences beyond their idiosyncratic content of persecution. The present study specifically examined paranoid individuals' cognitive appraisals of risks and their relationship with depression in everyday negative and neutral events.

Objectives
This study aimed at investigating how paranoid patients perceived risks in comparison to healthy controls. Specifically, it examined how patients appraised the likelihood, intentionality, controllability, and harm of events in everyday life. This study also examined the association between depression and these appraisals.

Methodology
Thirty patients with schizophrenia-spectrum disorder and active persecutory delusions were recruited in three local hospitals (AHNH, PWH, and QMH). Thirty-one healthy controls matched in gender, age, and years of education were also recruited as a comparison group. Patients were referred by their psychiatric medical officers to the research team. Written consent was obtained from all participants before a one-off assessment interview. In the assessment interview, both patients and healthy controls completed an intelligence assessment and filled out questionnaires measuring risk
perception and depression. The patient group also went through a clinical assessment of psychotic symptoms.

**Result**
Compared to healthy controls, patients perceived negative social events to be more likely to happen to themselves, \( t(58) = -2.38, p = .021 \). They perceived negative personal events to be more intentionally caused by others, \( t(58) = -2.36, p = .022 \). They also perceived neutral events to be more harmful, \( t(58) = -4.20, p < .001 \). The effect remained significant after controlling for intellectual functioning. Patients were significantly more depressed than healthy controls, \( t(57) = -3.75, p < .001 \). Regression analysis showed that level of depression positively predicted the risk perception dimensions, except for controllability, of negative events in patients, while predicting all dimensions in healthy controls.