RETROSPECTIVE EVALUATION OF THE PRE-ADMISSION LEVEL OF COGNITIVE FUNCTIONS IN PATIENTS WITH CEREBROVASCULAR DISEASES

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Objective: The objective of the study was to evaluate the pre-admission level of cognitive functioning in patients with cerebrovascular diseases.

Background: The most important point in diagnostics of vascular cognitive disorders is the detection of early symptoms. Therefore, timely management helps to avoid a decline in the quality of patients` life and a significant complication of their social interactions. The earliest signs can be noticed by the relatives of the patients, long before the first admission to the hospital.

Methods: We included 48 patients (67 ± 5 years old) who were diagnosed with acute ischemic stroke or cerebral small vessel disease. The severity and qualitative characteristics of the pre-admission cognitive functioning were evaluated using the standardized «Hexa-Code» express questionnaire for relatives, designed specifically for this research. The obtained data were compared with the results of the Montreal Cognitive Assessment (MoCA).

Results: In 12 cases (25%), the Hexa-Code questionnaire revealed early symptoms of cognitive deficit, while the MoCA assessment didn't reveal any impairment. In 10 cases (21%), the Hexa-Code questionnaire revealed milder impairment than the MoCA, therefore there is a strong correlation between the case of hospitalization and cognitive decline. In the remaining 26 cases (54%), the result was the same.

Conclusions: Obtained data indicating that some patients with cerebrovascular diseases have early symptoms of cognitive dysfunction that cannot be detected using classical cognitive scales, but they are evident to relatives of the patient. This information can be used to improve the therapeutic strategy for the patients.