

CHARACTERISTICS OF AUTONOMIC DYSFUNCTION IN WORKING-AGE PATIENTS WITH POST-CONCUSSION SYNDROME

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Objective: The objective of the study was to characterize the autonomic dysfunction (AD) in working-age patients with post-concussion syndrome (PCS).

Background: Traumatic brain injury (TBI) is a common cause of death and disability in young people of working age. According to statistics, mild TBI accounts for 60-95% of all head injuries. Concussion is the mildest clinical form of diffuse TBI and is characterized by the absence of changes in computed tomography and magnetic resonance imaging. The acute and subacute phases are followed by a period of PCS, the most common manifestation of which is AD.

Methods: We included 84 patients (24,5 years old) who were diagnosed with PCS. AD was studied by determining autonomic tone, autonomic reactivity and autonomic support. The level of anxiety was evaluated using the State-Trait Anxiety Inventory.

Results: The permanent type of the course of AD was detected in 57 cases (68%). In 27 cases (32%), autonomic paroxysms were detected, more often mixed (18 cases – 21%), less often sympathoadrenal (6 cases – 7%) and vagoinular (3 cases – 4%). Increased indicators of personal anxiety were evaluated on average up to 36 points, and in people with panic attacks - up to 42 points.

Conclusions: Based on the obtained data, it was concluded that the permanent type of AD is twice as common as paroxysmal. In addition, anxiety indicators in patients with PCS are significantly elevated. We will use this information in our further researches aimed at the development of diagnostic and therapeutic strategies.

