Cognitive impairment in multiple sclerosis: recent findings

F. Katsou[1], **D. Moraitou**[1], M. Tsolaki[2]
[1]*Psychology, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece*
[2]*Neurology, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece*

Cognitive impairment is one of the many symptoms in multiple sclerosis, which plays a critical role in the patient's everyday life. The most common cognitive deficits appear in information processing speed, attention, memory, learning, and executive functions. After years of research there aren't clear instructions in the assessment, which creates problems in the therapeutic process. This article is a literature review of the recent findings in deficits in MS patients and in- neuropsychological tests' validity and reliability. Fifty seven articles published from 2006 to 2016 were selected. Most studies confirmed declining deficits in the domains that w--ere mentioned in previous literature in various MS subtypes, but also in social cognition and emotion recognition. The examination of various already established cognitive tests in the detection of cognitive impairment and deterioration showed that SDMT (Symbol Digit Modalities Test) is the strongest measuring tool for IPS and working memory alongside with PASAT (Paced Auditory Serial Addition Task). The short version of BRB (Selective Reminding Test, PASAT-3 and SDMT) also had great results and covered many cognitive domains. CVLT-II (California Verbal Learning Test-II) was a sensitive test for verbal memory while BVMT-R (Brief Visual Spatial Memory Test-Revised) was a good screening tool for visual memory. Verbal fluency/executive functions can be assessed with WLG (Word List Generation). MSNQ (Multiple Sclerosis Neuropsychological Questionnaire) is recommended for everyday functioning and TASIT (The Awareness of Social Inference Test) for social cognition screening.