COGNITIVE EVALUATION OF PATIENTS WITH PRIMARY GENERALIZED SEIZURES

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Objective: The aim of our study was to assess the cognitive performance in patients with primary generalized seizures (PGS).
Method: We studied 30 patients diagnosed with PGS (10 of them with tonic-clonic seizures, 8 patients with tonic seizures, 7 patients with myoclonic seizures and 5 of them with clonic seizures). They had duration of the disease at least 6 years, at least 11 years of education, age between 43 and 68 years and a stable medication for 3 months prior the study. We also comprised in our study a group composed of 35 control subjects, without epilepsy. They had similar educational level and age with patients group.
We performed to all patients and control subjects the cognitive assessment using Mini Mental State Examination (MMSE) and the Clock Drawing Test (CDT) at baseline, 6 months and at 1 year follow-up. The results were analyzed by Student test.
Results: Our study in dynamics notice that the patients group showed a cognitive impairment after 6 months of study, but not considerable statistically in comparison to the control group. One year later , the patients with PGS had significant statistically cognitive decline in comparison to the control group ($p<0,05$). The most cognitive affected were patients with tonic-clonic seizures.
The patients on antiepileptic polytherapy showed greater cognitive impairment than those patients on monotherapy.
Conclusion: We consider that cognition is an important domain of the clinical spectrum of epilepsy and we emphasize the importance of neuropsychological assessment of these patients.