

## **THE IMPACT OF DEPRESSIVE SYMPTOMS AND APATHY ON THE RESULTS OF SCREENING FOR DEMENTIA**

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**Objectives:** The aim of the study was to analyze the impact of depressive symptoms and apathy on the results of screening for dementia.

**Material and methods:** The study was conducted in a group of 179 people [60 patients diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease (AD), 60 patients with mild cognitive impairment (MCI) and 59 healthy controls (CTL)]. The project analyzed the impact of depressive symptoms and apathy, assessed using the 15-item version of the Geriatric Depression Scale (GDS) and the Apathy subscale of the Neuropsychiatric Inventory (NPI), on the results of the screening tests for dementia: Mini-Mental State Examination (MMSE) and Montreal Cognitive Assessment (MoCA).

**Results:** It has been shown that the prevalence and severity of depressive symptoms and apathy were low in all study groups. Apathy was statistically more frequent and was more severe in the MCI group compared to the CTL group and in the AD group compared to patients with MCI and the control group ( $p < 0.001$ ). It has been shown that the symptoms of depression measured by GDS (in the observed range of severity) do not affect MMSE ( $p = 0.944$ ) and MoCA ( $p = 0.901$ ) result. It was found that neither the presence of apathy, nor its severity had a statistically significant effect on the association between GDS score and MMSE ( $p = 0.933$ ) or MoCA ( $p = 0.837$ ) scores.

**Conclusion:** There was no effect of the presence and severity of depressive symptoms and apathy on the results obtained in the screening using MMSE and MoCA tests.