

## **PREVALENCE OF COGNITIVE IMPAIRMENT IN PATIENTS WITH RELAPSING-REMITTING MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS**

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**Introduction:** A large number of multiple sclerosis (MS) patients suffer from cognitive impairment regardless of their age or the course of the disease. Three particular cognitive aspects are most commonly affected: information processing speed, visual and verbal memory. We aimed to determine the prevalence of cognitive impairment in patients with relapsing-remitting (R-R) MS gear to their EDSS score, disease duration, education and sex.

**Patients and methods:** We evaluated the cognitive function of 287 R-R MS patients treated at the Department of Neurology in Szeged with the BICAMS battery. We extracted their demographic data from the Department's MS-register. For the measurement of differences we used paired sample T-tests. To evaluate the correlation of cognitive impairment with EDSS score and disease duration we calculated the Pearson correlation coefficients. Statistical analysis was done by using PSPP 0.8.4 software.

**Results:** Of the 287 patients, 205 were women and 82 were men. The average age of the patients was 44±12 years, average disease duration was 12±8 years, average EDSS score was 2.2±1.8 points. 52% of them studied 12 or less years, 48% 13 or more. 64% suffered from cognitive impairment. We found significant negative correlation between the EDSS score and the BICAMS score ( $r=0.3$ ,  $p<0.05$ ).

**Discussion:** The prevalence of cognitive impairment in MS ranges from 43-70% according to studies. Our study is the first to use the BICAMS battery to determine the prevalence and to show correlation between the EDSS score and the patients' cognitive state.