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3rd International Conference on

CLINICAL AND COUNSELING PSYCHOLOGY

August 20-21, 2018 Singapore

Aspects of emotional sphere and cognitive functions of people with spinal cord injury

Trofimova A K¹, Kovyazina M S^{1,2}, Isaychev S A¹, Chernorizov A M¹ and Silina E V³ ¹Lomonosov Moscow State University Faculty of Psychology, Russia ²Research Center of Neurology, Russia

³Pirogov Russian National Research Medical University, Russia

Traumatic Spinal Cord Injury (TSCI) dramatically changes the course of a person's life. The prevalence of this phenomenon in the world is 40-80 cases per million inhabitants per year. Patients with traumatic spinal cord injury become lifelong invalids in need of constant complex medical and social rehabilitation, which is the most important aspect, is a long-term psychological correction. The aim of the study is to diagnose changes in the emotional and cognitive spheres of patients with spinal cord trauma. The study included 119 patients with TSCI at cervical (41.2%) or thoracic (58.8%) levels of the spine, aged 18 to 45 years, prescription of injury 0.5-38 years. All patients underwent a comprehensive psychological examination, including a scale of Beck depression, a scale of self-esteem. Emotional intelligence was determined with the use of several tests: Test of Spielberg and Khanin, the Hospital scale of Anxiety and Depression (HADS), the viability test by Muddy. Cognitive sphere was estimated by the battery of cognitive tests by A.R. Luria. Mild and severe depression was diagnosed in 42.9% of disabled people; there was a predominance of personal anxiety over the reactive type. Severe and mild depression is more often detected in patients with cervical injury, anxiety mostly in patients with thoracic level of trauma. In patients with TSCI, self-regulation, strong-willed regulation, emotional intelligence and involvement are highly developed, against the background of decreased affective control and lack of emotional flexibility. The cognitive sphere in persons with disabilities with TSCI predominantly corresponds to normative data.

Biography

Trofimova A K is a PhD student and is a Chair of Psychophysiology at the Department of Psychology, Lomonosov Moscow State University.

sandratrofimova@gmail.com

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