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Assessment of cognitive functions in Rheumatoid arthritis patients

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Aim: The diagnosis of cognitive dysfunction in patients with Rheumatoid arthritis is often not noticed, regardless of their importance and frequency. The aim of this study was examination of cognitive functions in patients with Rheumatoid arthritis in relation to intensity of pain, duration of illness, degree of disease activity, anatomical and functional stage of disease.

Material: Study included 53 women with Rheumatoid arthritis (RA group with mean age 50.58±0.93 years and 27 women, healthy subjects (CO group) with mean age of 49.41±1.08 years.

Methods: Intensity of pain was determined using visual analogue scale (VAS), functional status was assessed using HAQ (Health Assessment Questionnaire), disease activity using the activity index disease (DAS 28), neurophysiological tests were done by usage P300 event-related potentials and cognitive status is evaluated by Wechsler scale-based memory (WMS).

Results: The average value of the amplitude of P300 potential and average values of the memory coefficient (WMS) were significantly lower in the RA group compared to the CO group.

Conclusion: The high frequency of cognitive dysfunctions in patients with Rheumatoid arthritis requires in time diagnosis and adequate treatment.

Biography

Snezana Tomasevic-Todorovic has completed her MS in 2001 year and PhD in 2009 year at Faculty of Medicine, University of Novi Sad, Serbia. She is an Assistant Professor at the Faculty of Medicine, Basic health care professional studies, Basic studies of rehabilitation and special education, Basic studies of Physiotherapy School of Medicine, University of Novi Sad. Since 2002, she has been working as physiatrist and rheumatologist, and a specialist of quantum medicine in the Clinic for Medical Rehabilitation, Clinical Center of Vojvodina, Serbia. She has published more than 50 peer reviewed articles. Currently, she holds the position of vice-president of Serbian Association of Physiatrists, President of the Section of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Physicians of Vojvodina, Serbian Medical Society, and is a member of the Rheumatology Association of Serbia, a member of the IASP as well.

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