

Clinical deterioration in vascular dementia : Role of new ischemic lesions, hypoalbuminemia and hyponatremia

Musstafa, Muhammad M. Nassr, Aly A. Abou-El-Magd, Samir F.

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The objective of this study was to investigate the causes of deterioration in patients with vascular dementia known to have lacunar infarcts and leukoariosis to sort out the different possible causes, thus provide a basis for therapeutic intervention. The study included 54 patients with the diagnosis of vascular dementia according to the DSM 4 criteria with evident lacunar infarcts and periventricular white matter hyper intensities on their MRI T2 weighted images. The patients were divided into three groups according to their mode of presentation. All patients had a thorough neurological and psychiatric valuation, a Glasgow coma score, NIHSS score, hierarchic dementia scale for the assessment of cognitive functions in dementia, structural interview for the deterioration in daily living activities in dementia, Cornell scale for depression in dementia and a functional outcome score for dementia, laboratory analysis and MRI images with diffusion weighted images and adjustment of b-values to low (500) and high (1000).