

Cognitive dysfunction in unipolar depression

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This study was carried out on a sample of 30 patients who were diagnosed as unipolar depression according to ICD-10 diagnostic criteria. A control group of 20 individuals was also studied. The study aimed to assess the profile of cognitive deficit in unipolar depression and identify if these cognitive deficits represent reliable markers in unipolar depression. Each member of both patient and control groups was subjected to Wisconsin card sorting test for the assessment of the groups executive functions, Wechsler memory scale-revised for memory assessment, continuous performance test for attention and auditory event related potential for neurophysiological assessment of cognition. Depressed patients had an impairment in the executive functions reflecting a dysfunction in the prefrontal cortex. The depressed patients had memory impairment reflecting dysfunction in the hippocampal area. The depressed patients had an impairment in sustained attention with difficult information processing, reflecting a dysfunction in the superior temporal gyrus.