

Study of SPECT in depressive disorder

Nagi, Nahla El-Sayed

Supervised by Kamel, Musstafa. Sadeq, Adel. Ghanem, Muham

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This study was carried out on a sample of 40 patients with major depressive disorder according to ICD-10 diagnostic criteria. In addition, a control group composed of 20 healthy individuals was selected. This thesis aimed to study the changes in regional cerebral blood flow found in depressed patients. Both case and control groups were subjected to detailed history, full psychiatric and neurological examination, psychometric tests to identify cognitive impairment, Hamilton depression rating scale to assess the severity of depression and brain SPECT for the measurement of cerebral blood flow. The results showed that in depressed group, regional cerebral blood flow was decreased bilaterally more than the left prefrontal cortex. -In the severely depressed subgroup, cerebral blood flow was lower compared with the moderate subgroup. There were higher cerebral blood flow levels in patients with depression related somatic symptoms. The study pointed to the role of SPECT as a state marker for depression.