

Therapeutic efficacy of repetitive transcranial magnetic stimulation in major depression and post-stroke depression

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This study aimed to assess the efficacy of rTMS in post-stroke depression and compare it with rTMS efficacy in major depressive disorder, to compare high and low frequency stimulation and to assess the effect of rTMS on cognitive function.

The samples consisted of 40 patients divided into two groups.

Patients on antidepressant were instructed to stop their medication for two weeks before starting the sessions of rTMS.

Both groups were fulfilling the diagnostic criteria of major depression according to the DSM-IV criteria.

They were medically and neurologically free.

At the end of the ten sessions of rTMS, patients were reassessed again by using HDRS and regarding their cognitive functions by the same tests used before the first session, then reassessment using HDRS was performed at two weeks and one month after the last session to assess maintained response.

There was a decrease in HDRS score in the four groups of the study (HFS, LFS, MDD and PSD).

LFS led to more decrease in HDRS score and longer maintained response than HFS. There was an improvement in cognitive function after rTMS course and the side effect profile was minimal, HFS group had more side effects than LFS group.

So, TMS may be a new treatment for depression.