

Assessment of cognitive functions in obsessive compulsive disorder patients

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The aim of this work was to study the cognitive dysfunction in OCD patients and to identify its correlation with both the clinical picture and the severity of the disorder. Neuropsychological and electrophysiological event related potentials were tested in 30 OCD patients and compared with 30 normal volunteers of a matched gender, age and education. The study showed a defective visuo-spatial recognition, which worsens with chronicity, deteriorated set shifting abilities, over-focused attention to irrelevant stimuli and delayed selective attention to relevant tasks. Mild cases showed better selective attention than severe cases. Obsessive cases had a defective visual memory, while compulsive cases had delayed perception of task relevant stimuli. Mixed cases showed disturbed information processing both early and late.