

Cognitive dysfunctions in depressive disorders

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The aim of this study was to find out the cognitive dysfunction in unipolar depression and depressive phase of bipolar disorder and to compare both types of depression regarding clinical and neuropsychological findings. Several domains of cognitive function were examined in 22 depressed unipolar patients and 22 depressed bipolar patients diagnosed according to ICD10 research criteria compared with 30 healthy volunteers. History and mental state examination was done, using semi-structured interview, Hamilton depression rating scale for both patients group and subtests of WMSR together with vigil continuous performance test for both patients and control to assess various aspects of memory and attention. There were highly significant cognitive impairments in immediate, short-term and visual memory together with an impairment in attention in both patients groups relative to the control. On the other hand, visual memory span and vigil continuous performance test were more impaired in bipolar group. Meanwhile, there were no significant differences regarding both patients groups in most of the compared parameters, except for the duration of illness and number of episodes, which were more in bipolar group.