

A study on dementia

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Thesis ; M.D. 1992

The study included 50 patients with dementia and 15 healthy controls.

The sample was subjected to EEG, CT, Bender Gestalt test, manual Dexterity test, dexamethasone suppression test and platelet M.A.O. activity.

The most frequent type of dementia was primary degenerative dementia (PDD) (48%), followed by multi infarct dementia (M.I.D.) (32%) and the other types of dementia (20%). The difference between scores of patients and that of the controls in Manual Dexterity test was statistically highly significant. The difference between scores of patients and that of the controls in Bender Gestalt test was statistically highly significant.

The incidence of the +ve DST (dexamethasone suppression test), 46% was higher than that of the control and the difference between both was statistically significant. The mean platelet M.A.O. activity in PDD and in dementia due to other causes showed highly statistically significant increase than control group, but in MID the increase was not statistically significant.

Slow EEG rhythm was more significantly frequent in demented patients of both types (PDD and MID) than the control. It was observed that slow EEG rhythm increases with the severity of mental impairment but not statistically significant. Localized slow activity was more frequent in MID than PDD which was statistically significant. Ventricular dilatation, prominent sulci, cerebral infarction, and LA (lacunae) were common in demented patients of both types than control which was statistically significant. There was a positive relationship between the degrees of sulcus prominence and slow EEG rhythm in MID which was statistically significant.