

Study of the role of computed brain tomography, psychometric tests and electroencephalogram in diagnosis of dementia

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The study was done for early diagnosis and detection of the type or the cause, and severity of dementia. Sixty patients, diagnosed as (20 ?AD?, 30 multi infarct dementia "MID", 9 mixed and one Binswanger's disease "BW"), were subjected to MMSE, Wechsler Adult Intelligence Scale (WAIS), EEG and CT. MMSE scores were lower in AD group than other groups. The scores of WAIS were lower in mixed D and AD than MID.

Laboratory findings were greatly abnormal among MID, mixed D and BW, including higher blood levels of sugar (12 patients), urea (5 patients), cholesterol (24 patients), and triglycerides (21 patients). EEG findings were not specific for the diagnosis of dementia and were in the form of generalized slowing, appearance of diffuse theta or delta waves, localized slow waves, bifrontal bursts of delta waves, asymmetric localized slowing which was found only in MID, mixed D and BW. CT findings were in the form of cortical atrophy, ventricular dilatation, deep sulci (in all patients).

Areas of low attenuation were found in MID, mixed D and BW. It was found that the cortical atrophy and ventricular dilatations were severe in those patients with more than 2 infarcts and bilateral infarcts.

It was found that for AD, proper history and clinical examination followed by psychological test may be enough for the diagnosis. Other methods may be used for reassurance of the diagnosis of the patient. Laboratory tests and clinical findings may be enough for diagnosis of syphilis, nutritional deficiency and myxedema. Radiological methods, as CT or MRI, may be useful in MID, tumors and normal pressure hydrocephalus. EEG is helpful in the differential diagnosis of dementia from pseudodementia and other psychiatric disease.