

Study of the relationship between chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and cognition in elderly

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Thesis ; M.Sc. 2002

This study aimed to assess the relation between COPD and cognitive function in the elderly. A cross-sectional study was performed on 100 elderly and 50 subjects were included as a control group. Twenty five subjects were COPD patients only with no other co morbid medical condition and 25 subjects were COPD with other co morbid conditions.

The sample was subjected to activities of daily living and instrumental activities of daily living, geriatric depression scale and consortium to establish a registry for Alzheimer's disease. It was found that COPD patients performed poorer than control group in all the tests used in this study and it was of statistical significant difference in word list recall and word list recognition, while the difference was highly significant in performing tests of verbal fluency, MMSE score, constructional praxis and recall of constructional praxis. It was also found that there was a negative correlation between the degree (severity) of COPD and the performance in cognitive tests used and there was a statistically significant difference in word list memory and constructional praxis tests. This difference was highly significant in recall of constructional praxis test and there was no statistically significant difference regarding verbal fluency, MMSE score, word list recall and word list recognition tests.