

Neuropsychiatric complications following open heart surgery

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Aim of the work: To investigate the incidence and determinants of post-operative neuropsychiatric disorders after open heart surgery and to compare these disorders with the pre-operative neurologic, psychiatric, electroencephalographic and psychological tests findings. Method: 20 cardiac patients with age ranging from 16 to 53 years, operated upon by open heart surgery (including 8 mitral valve replacement, 5 aortic valve replacement, 3 double valve replacement, 3 closure of atrial septal defect and 1 open pulmonary valvotomy) are subjected to pre-operative (2-3 days prior to the operation) and post-operative (4 days after) full neurological and psychiatric assessments as well as Taylor Anxiety Scale, Healdreth scale for mood, Digit span of Wechsler and Bender Gestalt test for organicity and EEG. Diagnosis of post-operative psychiatric cases is done clinically according to DSM III (1980). Results: Five out of 20 patients studied present post-operatively with psychiatric complications as follows: 2 with subacute delirious state and 3 with depressive disorder. Conclusion: Psychiatric disorders can develop as a complication to open heart surgery.