

## DOES SLEEP APNEA AFFECT THE OUTCOME OF STROKE PATIENTS?

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**Background:** Sleep apnea is described as an isolated risk factor for stroke or recurrent stroke which could be cause of death. In our study, the aim was to determine whether sleep apnea affects the outcome of stroke patients.

**Subjects and methods:** This is a prospective study in which a group of 110 patients in the acute phase of a stroke was evaluated sleep apnea. Acute stroke has been diagnosed either by computed tomography and magnetic resonance imaging of the brain. There was no significant difference in patient's age with or without sleep apnea neither in men nor women. Neurological, neuropsychiatric, pulmonary test were performed in all patients at five different time periods. In these time periods, all patients were evaluated: Glasgow scale, The American National Institutes of Health Scale Assessment, Mini Mental Test, The Sleep and snoring Questionnaire Test, The Berlin Questionnaire Test, The Epworth Sleepiness Scale, The Stanford Sleepiness Scale and The general sleep questionnaire.

**Results:** One year after the onset of stroke, 91 (82.7%) of 110 patients with apnea survived. The survival rate of patients with sleep apnea is significantly lower than without sleep apnea ( $p=0.01$ ). In men with apnea, the survival rate was significantly lower in patients without apnea ( $p=0.004$ ). The largest number of survivors of apnea had diabetes mellitus, followed by survival of patients with heart disease, body mass index  $> 29$  kg/m<sup>2</sup> and hypertension, with hyperlipoproteinemia and smoking. The highest number of survivors without apnea was body mass index  $> 29$  kg/m<sup>2</sup>, followed by survival of patients with hyperlipoproteinemia, heart disease, hypertension, smoking, and diabetes mellitus.

**Conclusion:** Patients with sleep apnea have a significant correlation in survival rates compared with sexually and age-matched subjects, associated with concomitant risk factors such as hypertension, body mass index, and smoking.

**Key words:** outcome - stroke - sleep apnea

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## TRANSDISCIPLINARY APPROACH IN TYPE I NEUROFIBROMATOSIS - A CASE REPORT AND REVIEW OF PSYCHIATRIC DISORDERS

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**Background:** Neurofibromatosis type 1 (NF1) is an autosomal dominant a multisystem genetic disorder that primarily involves the skin and the nervous system. The incidence of the disease is 1:3000-4000 live-born children, equally in both sexes. The diagnosis of NF1 is determined individually with any two of the following clinical features: café-au-lait spots, intertriginous freckling, Lisch nodules, neurofibromas, optic glioma, distinctive bone lesions and first-degree family relative with NF1. NF1 is a disease most commonly diagnosed and treated by neuropsychiatrists.

**Results:** Cognitive and behavioral disorders affect between 50-80% of all children with NF1. Children with NF1 show impairments in attention, visual perception, language, executive function, academic skills, and behavior. This requires a multidisciplinary approach to the treatment as seen in the case we present. Furthermore, NF1 is often associated with psychiatric disorders, which are more frequent in this disease than in general population, according to some studies even up to 33% patients. Psychiatric disorders are more frequent in NF1 than in the general population, particularly in children. They include dysthymia, depressive mood, anxiety, and personality disorders. Bipolar mood disorders or schizophrenia are rather rare. The majority of studies have focused on physical health and neurocognitive function in NF1, whereas psychiatric disorders associated with this disease remain unclear and poorly documented.

**Conclusions:** We present a case of an eight-year-old boy with behavioural and learning disabilities referred for psychological and psychiatric evaluation as well as an overview of NF-related psychiatric illnesses described in the literature.

**Key words:** neurofibromatosis- mental disorders - cognitive difficulties - ADHD - autism

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## VISUAL EVOKED POTENTIALS IN EVALUATING SUDDEN VISUAL LOSS IN ADOLESCENTS: A PSYCHOSOMATIC PERSPECTIVE

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Dissociative disorder is a psychiatric illness characterised by signs and symptoms that cannot be associated with medical pathology. It is estimated that 25% of all patients have some form of dissociative disorder. In our paper we described 12 patients with sudden loss of visual acuity as a main symptom. Visual evoked potential testing proved that there was no organic disease involving visual pathway. After extensive examination they have been diagnosed as dissociative disorders. Their symptoms improved after psychiatric treatment. It is important for clinician to keep this diagnosis in mind and to recognize patients that might be suffering from this disorder. Making proper diagnosis correctly and on time is vital for successful treatment.

**Key words:** dissociative disorders - conversion disorder - visual loss - visual evoked potentials - psychosomatic

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## COMORBIDITY OF DISSOCIATIVE MOTOR DISORDER WITH ORGANIC IMPAIRMENT - CASE REPORT

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Dissociative disorder is a partial or a complete loss of the normal integration between the sense of identity, memories of the past, sensory impression and control of voluntary movements. Diagnosis should be stated only after excluding active psychoactive substance use, neurological disorders and disorders associated with somatic conditions. We are describing a patient who had comorbidity of organic impairment while diagnosing dissociative disorder. A 36-year-old male was admitted to the Clinic for Psychiatry, University Hospital Centre (UHC) Split, Croatia, because of difficulty in walking and involuntary movements due to constant muscle contractions throughout whole body, with predominantly intense in diaphragm and upper extremities. Motoric symptoms began several months after a cerebellar tumor surgery in 2006. Despite organic impairment due to tumor incision, after extensive somatic diagnostic processing, the organic cause of his condition has not been detected. The patient was treated with psychotherapy, psychopharmacotherapy and physical therapy. After 22 days of intensive hospital treatment, the patient was discharged in improved, both, mental and physical condition

**Key words:** dissociative disorder - spasm - psychotherapy - psychopharmacotherapy - pilocytic astrocytoma

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## HOW TO SQUARE A CIRCLE?

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Psychodynamic group psychotherapy in Daily Hospital for non-psychotic disorders was held through Hangouts program during CoViD-19 pandemic lockdown. In our pilot study we compared patients' impressions and their satisfaction with online program vs. usual, in-person setting program. We analyzed the impressions of group therapists as well. Our conclusion is that according to our patients' impressions and satisfaction, online psychodynamic group psychotherapy is good enough option in extreme situations such as infectious disease pandemic, although it cannot completely replace all the aspects of usual "live" setting.

**Key words:** online group therapy - group setting - CoViD-19 pandemic - daily hospital

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