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Conclusions

The self-reported impact of pandemic on PwMS was deep in terms of increased depression, anxiety, fatigue and spasticity, mainly related to reduction in physical activity and pre-existing disability.

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119832
Telemedicine for routinary multiple sclerosis follow-up during SARS-CoV2 pandemic: A single center experience

Arianna Sartori, Alessandro Dinoto, Fulvio Pasquin, Sara Baldini, Alessio Bratina, Antonio Bosco, Paolo Manganotti, University of Trieste, Neurology Unit, Department of Medical, Surgical and Health Sciences, Cattinara University Hospital, Asugi, Trieste, Italy

Background and aims

Telemedicine in multiple sclerosis (MS) is promising, particularly for patients with high disability and difficulties to reach the treating centre. During SARS-CoV2 pandemic, teleconsults are gaining a central role. The aim of the present study was to report our single-center experience and to verify the effectiveness of teleconsults in diagnosing relapses and rating progression.

Methods

During the first lockdown phase (March–May 2020) all the pre-planned consults were converted in teleconsults. The evaluation focused on new symptoms or worsening of known symptoms, disability (PDDS), patients’ satisfaction of such assessment modality (rated form 0 to 10). Patients were then re-evaluated in person within 6 months. We verified the changes in disability and the accuracy of teleconsults in diagnosing MS relapses.

Results

Eighty-four patients underwent teleconsult and were re-evaluated in person within 6 months after the lockdown (69% female, mean age 50.5 ± 11.0 y, mean disease duration 13.0 ± 9.7 y 78.6% relapsing-remitting disease form, 76.2% on disease modifying treatment). Median pre-lockdown EDSS was 1.5 (range 0–8) median EDSS post lockdown was 2 (1–8) (p = 0.836); median PDDS during lockdown was 1.5 (0–8). A single disease relapse was detected with teleconsults. In the post-lock down in person evaluation no additional undiagnosed relapses were detected. Patients’ reported satisfaction was very high (median 10, range 8–10).

Conclusions

Teleconsult in MS patients allowed us to guarantee a regular neurological follow-up during pandemic lockdown. No unreported relapses were missed, no significant disability changes were reported nor detected compared to pre-lockdown evaluation. Finally, patients’ satisfaction of this modality was very high.

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119833
The outbreak of methanol intoxication during COVID-19 pandemic: Prevalence of brain lesions and its predisposing factors

Mehrdad Roozbeh1, Mahtab Ramezani2, Shahid Beheshti University of Medical sciences, Brain Mapping Research Center, Tehran, Iran, Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences, Loughman Hakim Hospital, Neurology, Tehran, Iran

Background and aims

During the COVID-19 pandemic, methanol-containing beverages’ consumption has risen because people mistakenly believed that alcohol might protect them against the virus. This study aimed to evaluate the prevalence and predisposing factors of brain lesions in patients with methanol toxicity and its outcome.

Methods

A total of 516 patients with confirmed methanol poisoning were enrolled in this retrospective study, of which 40 patients underwent spiral brain computed tomography (CT) scan.

Results

The presence of unilateral or bilateral brain necrosis was significantly higher in the non-survival group (p = 0.001). Also, intracerebral hemorrhage (ICH) and brain edema were prevalent among patients that subsequently died (p = 0.004 and p = 0.002, respectively). Lower Glasgow Coma Scale (GCS) was related to a higher mortality rate (p = 0.001). The mortality rate in chronic alcohol consumption was lower than the patients who drank alcohol for the first time (p = 0.014).

Conclusions

Increasing the number of methanol poisoning and its associated mortality and morbidity should be considered a threat during the COVID-19 pandemic.

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119834
The probability of neurocognitive disorders in patients at the postcovid stage

Oleg, Boevabc, aStavropol State Medical University, Head Of The Department Of Psychiatry, Psychotherapy And Medical Psychology, Stavropol, Russian Federation, bStavropol State Medical University, Head Of The Department Of Clinical Psychology, Stavropol, Russian Federation, cStavropol Regional Clinical Psychiatric Hospital No. 1, Head Of The Department Of Psychiatry, Stavropol, Russian Federation

Background and aims

Актуальность постковидных расстройств у больных обусловлена отсутствием данных о механизмах возникновения нейрокогнитивных расстройств.

Methods

Material and methods of research. We examined 22 people who had suffered from COVID-19, which made up two groups. The first main group – 10 patients with clinical signs of mild cognitive impairment (LCN), the second comparative group-12 patients without clinical signs of LCN. To detect LCN, neuropsychological tests MMSE were used, tests were performed: “establishing patterns”, visual-spatial function, semantic mediation and generalization. In the comparative analysis, the nonparametric criterion χ2 was used. based on the null hypothesis that there are no differences between the compared groups.

Results

The results obtained. If in group 2 there was a positive dynamics of cognitive functions of patients in the form of a statistically significant (p < 0.05) increase in the number of correctly completed tasks on the MMSE test on average 27.9 ± 1.3, D = 10.3%; p < 0.05, “+” 2.6 points, then in group 1 there was no positive dynamics (p < 0.05). In group 2, there is an increase in words called in one repetition, averaging 1.3 words (20.3%), while in group 1 patients there is a negative trend (p < 0.05). In the “digit repetition test”, the increase in the total score of reproduced digits both in the forward