

## PHOBIC POSTURAL VERTIGO - A BLURRED SIGN FOR ANXIETY DISORDER, RESULTS FORM A CASE SERIES

*K. Feffer*<sup>1</sup>, *C. Gordon*<sup>2,3</sup>, *S. Fennig*<sup>1,4</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Outpatient Clinic, Shalvata Mental Health Center, Hod-Hashron, <sup>2</sup>Neurology, Tel Aviv University, Tel Aviv, <sup>3</sup>Neurology, Meir Medical Center, Kfar Saba, <sup>4</sup>Psychiatry, Tel Aviv University, Tel Aviv, Israel

Phobic Postural Vertigo (PPV) is the 3<sup>rd</sup> most common cause for vertigo, characterized by the combination of a dizziness and subjective disturbance of balance in the absence of objective findings during routine Neurological evaluation. In most cases the clinical presentation is indistinguishable from agoraphobia. Despite this, most clinical data does not support direct correlation between anxiety disorder and PPV.

In this case series 10 patients who suffer from PPV went through psychiatry interview after a neurologist check up has been made to confirm the diagnosis of PPV. ACQ, BCQ and HDRS were filled for all patients.

**Result:** According to this preliminary case series evidence for anxiety/somatization disorder were evident in 50 % ( 5/10) before the development of PPV while in 30% (3/10) anxiety symptoms appeared in parallel or sequential to the development of PPV. In 20% (2/10), no signs for anxiety symptoms detected during evaluation.

The results of this case series suggest that PPV is a heterogeneous diagnosis that in part includes patient with previous anxiety/somatization disorder and patient in which vertigo is the presenting sign of anxiety disorder.

Farther research is needed in order to farther characterize PPV patients and promote suitable interventions.