

PW01-164 - NEUROPSYCHOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT OF CARDIAC REHABILITATION FOLLOWING CARDIAC SURGERY - PRELIMINARY RESULTS

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Background: Cognitive functioning involves all aspects of perception, thinking, reasoning, and remembering. Cardiac surgery is associated with a decline in cognitive functions. The incidence of this complication ranges from 3% to 80%. Cardiac rehabilitation is a treatment programme designed to help heart patients manage their condition, improve their health and recover their quality of life after a cardiac event.

Objectives: To evaluate the influence of cardiac rehabilitation on neuropsychological parameters of patients undergoing cardiac surgery.

Methods: Neuropsychological data were gathered from 20 patients (M=11, F= 9; mean age 66,5 ± 11,7 years) who underwent a four week cardiac rehabilitation program. To examine patients cognitive functioning following tests were utilized: Trail Making Test A and B, Stroop test A and B, FAS test and Digit Span Test (DST). Patients were qualified into two groups: Group - I after heart valve surgery. Group II - after coronary artery bypass grafting (CABG)

Results: In TMT A and B both groups demonstrated similar improvement, though the results were below appropriate age norms. In part A of the Stroop test both groups improved their results, yet the improvement of the I group was greater. In part B of the Stroop test and in DST the results of group I improved, while the results of group II worsened. In the FAS test both groups improved their results, yet the improvement of group II was greater.

Conclusions: The group of patients who underwent heart valve surgery demonstrates greater improvement in processes associated with prefrontal cortex.