

SEVERITY OF TRAUMA EXPERIENCES, COGNITIVE IMPAIRS, DEPRESSIVENESS AND ANXIETY OF WAR VETERANS WHO SUFFER FROM PTSD

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Aim: Our aim was to assess the severity of trauma experiences, cognitive impairments, depressiveness and anxiety of war veterans who suffered from posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

Subjects and methods: A sample consisted of war veterans who were clinically treated because of PTSD (n=50) and healthy controls who accepted to participate voluntarily in this study (n=54) who were recruited in local association of war veterans. We used Harvard trauma questionnaire (HTQ) for assessment of PTSD, Hopkins Check Scale SBCL 25 for assessment of depressiveness and anxiety, and mini mental status (MINI) for assessment of cognitive impairments.

Results: Mean age of tested subjects was 50.6 (SD=5.2) years, with no significant differences between groups: PTSD group was 50.3 (SD=6.0) years and no PTSD group was 50.9 (SD=4.4) years (df=1, F=0.337, P=0.563, ANOVA). War veterans who were treated from PTSD reported significantly more multiple trauma experiences 21.9 (SD=5.7) than their peers without PTSD 13.7 (SD=5.8) (F=52.213, P< 0.001, ANOVA). The score of severity of cognitive impairments was significantly lower of PTSD group 22.6 (SD=3.7) than veterans without PTSD 26.6 (SD=2.1) (F=47.028, p< 0.001, ANOVA). War veterans with PTSD had significantly higher severity of depressiveness 3.0 (SD=0.5) and anxiety 3.2 (SD=0.6) than their peers without PTSD (1.4±0.4; 1.7±0.5, respectively) (F=241.979, p< 0.001; F=193.021, P>0.001, respectively, ANOVA).

Conclusion: War veterans who were clinically treated from PTSD reported significantly more trauma experiences, they were more depressive and anxious and also they were more severely cognitively impaired, than their peers who did not suffer from PTSD.