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Journal Abstract

Changes in regional cerebral blood flow, cognitive functions and emotional status in patients after mild traumatic brain injury - retrospective evaluation G Maksymiuk, M Szlakowska, A Stępień

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The aim of the study was to estimate rCBF in patients after mild traumatic brain injury (mTBI) and to compare the results of neuropsychological examinations. The study was conducted in a group of 17 males aged 19-25 years (average age 22.1) after mTBI. The SPECT examination carried out early after the trauma, showed in 16 patients numerous foci of the decreased perfusion mostly in the frontal and temporal areas and, less frequently, in the parietal areas of brain; the foci were localised predominantly in the left hemisphere. One year after the injury, both the magnitude and the intensity of rCBF alterations were in 7 patients less pronounced than shortly after the trauma, and in 3 patients reduction of changes was very significant. Abnormal concentration and attention divisibility level was found in 9 (52.9%) patients in early period after mTBI. In five of them, and another one (35.3%) with previous normal result of Couve test, abnormalities were found a year after TBI as well. Short-term memory was weak directly after mTBI in 11 (64.7%) subjects. High anxiety level coexisted in patients with abnormalities described above in early period and a year after trauma. Depression was diagnosed in 5 patients a year after TBI. It was consistent with their complaints found in other psychological examinations. All above-mentioned abnormal results were found in patients with high level of neuroticism. Multifocal rCBF changes revealed in acute phase and a year after trauma did not correlated with psychological patient status. Our survey did not revealed any relationship between the results of SPECT examination and the development or sort of posttraumatic cognitive abnormalities found in neuropsychological tests.

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