

Evaluating Cognitive Impairment in Idiopathic Normal-Pressure Hydrocephalus through Rey Auditory Verbal Learning Test

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The idiopathic Normal-Pressure Hydrocephalus it's a condition of quadri-ventricular active distension associated with cerebrospinal fluid in absence of other identifiable cause. Symptomatology is characterized by balance impairment, urinary incontinence and cognitive impairment and it's attenuated by shunt-surgery with a positive response in 80-84% of cases. There are some improvements in frontal lobe, memory and visuoconstructive function at six months and at one year and general cognitive improvement 3 months after shunt-surgery. Neuroimage studies show a medial temporal lobe volume reduction that incides on memory impairment. Cognitive deficits are caused by frontal subcortical dysfunction; individuals frequently have delayed processing and impaired frontal lobe function. Generally, symptomatology comprises psychomotor slowing, impairment of attention and concentration, short-term memory impairment and language production and attention reduced, general reduction of processing speed and difficulty to manipulate acquired information. The purpose of this study was to use the Rey Auditory Verbal Learning Test (RAVLT) to examine the learning process involved in immediate and delayed recall, and to investigate whether primacy or recency effects were present in INPH patients when recalling word lists. The findings revealed a lack of learning during RAVLT trials, as participants did not demonstrate significant improvement in their capacity to recall or repeat the words presented during repeated memorization tasks. This absence of learning suggests potential factors such as memory disorders, distractions, or suboptimal learning methods among the study participants.

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Primary authors: MAIUOLO, Maria Lucia (Department of Experimental and Clinical Medicine, University Magna Græcia of Catanzaro, Italy); GIORGINI, Roberto (Department of Experimental and Clinical Medicine, University Magna Græcia of Catanzaro, Italy); QUATTRONE, Andrea (Department of Medical and Surgical Sciences, Magna Graecia University of Catanzaro, Italy); QUATTRONE, Aldo (Neuroscience Research Center (CR), Department of Medical and Surgical Sciences, Magna Graecia University of Catanzaro, Italy); VACCARO, Maria Grazia (Neuroscience Research Center (CR), Department of Medical and Surgical Sciences, Magna Graecia University of Catanzaro, Italy)

Presenter: MAIUOLO, Maria Lucia (Department of Experimental and Clinical Medicine, University Magna Græcia of Catanzaro, Italy)

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