

Is there any difference in emotional intelligence and general emotional experience after stroke?

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INTRODUCTION: Emotional intelligence is a type of social intelligence that involves the ability to monitor one's own and others' emotions, to discriminate among them, and to use the information to guide one's thinking and actions. It is an important predictor of one's success in personal, social and professional life.

AIM: The aim of this study was to investigate if stroke impairs emotional intelligence and does it have any influence on the general emotional experience.

PATIENTS AND METHODS: We examined 40 patients, aged 60-85 years, with the first ever stroke and 40 control subjects matching age and gender. Patients with previous psychiatric treatment were excluded. We examined emotional intelligence with an Emotional intelligence questionnaire –UEK-45 (Takšić, 2001) and the general emotional experience with an Affect scale- SPNE 34 (Šverko, 2006, 2009). Half of patients were evaluated 5 to 7 days after the stroke, and another half one to three months after the stroke.

RESULTS: There wasn't a significant difference in the results of Emotional intelligence questionnaire between patients who suffered stroke and control subjects. However, the general emotional experience was significantly changed among stroke patients in comparison with control subjects. Patients in the early stage of a stroke showed significantly worse results in the Affect scale than patients who were examined after one month or more.

CONCLUSION: According results, we conclude that general emotional experience changes after the stroke, which can affect quality of life.

Keywords: stroke, emotional intelligence, affect

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