
Cognition in women with migraine (abstract)

Cognição em mulheres com migrânea (resumo)

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Background: There is a consensus in clinical practice that women in menopause transition relate cognitive complaints mainly from memory. Some studies reported that psychological symptoms may be associated with cognitive impairment. These hypotheses have not been proven and controversies in the literature are presented. This study aimed to compare the cognitive performance and their associations with affective variables between groups of women at three stages of menopause with and without aura migraine.

Method: Participants 85 women divided into five groups: perimenopause with migraine (n = 16), perimenopausal without migraine (n = 18), premenopausal women with migraine (n = 20) premenopausal women without migraine (n = 15) and late postmenopausal (n = 16, between five and ten years after last menstruation). In a meeting were applied Depression Inventory, Anxiety Inventory, Mini-Mental State Examination, WAIS III (Digits reverse and direct, Search for Symbols, Codes, Matrix Reasoning), Reproduction and Evocation Figure Rey, Rey Word List, Semantic Fluency, Stroop test. Comparisons were performed between groups: 1) pre-menopause and perimenopause with and without migraine, 2) premenopausal, perimenopausal and postmenopausal women.

Results: The first comparison group in premenopausal women with migraine had a worse performance on tasks that assessed the Stroop test words (p = 0.04), direct digit (p = 0.02) and inverse digit (p = 0.01), abstract visual reasoning (p = 0.005) and anxiety (p = 0.0006) compared with the premenopause without migraine. The perimenopausal groups with and without migraine did not show differences in cognition, only anxiety (p = 0.04). The perimenopausal group without migraine got worse scores than the premenopausal women without migraine in the tests that assessed attention (p = 0.04), processing speed (p = 0.02), inhibitory control (p = 0.008) and anxiety (p = 0.04). No differences were observed between the groups premenopausal and perimenopausal migraine with migraine. Few and weak associations were established between the affective and

cognitive variables in the four groups. In the second comparison subjects, perimenopausal and postmenopausal women had worse scores than premenopausal tasks that assessed processing speed (p = 0.02, p = 0.04) inhibitory control (p = 0.02) and abstract reasoning (p = 0.02). On a scale of severity of symptoms of anxiety groups premenopausal and postmenopausal had lower scores than the perimenopause (p = 0.03). Associations were evident between anxiety and depression scores and cognitive tests in postmenopausal group.

Conclusion: Premenopausal women with migraine showed a decrease in attention, memory, abstract reasoning. Perimenopausal and postmenopausal women showed a decrease in speed of information processing, attention, inhibitory control and visual abstract reasoning when compared with premenopausal women. The presence of migraine caused an increased intensity of anxiety symptoms. Perimenopause is the period most susceptible to anxiety.

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