

Psychological Factors in Chronic Pain Patients Waiting for Motor Cortex Stimulation

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Objective. The purpose of this study was to evaluate whether neurosurgical motor-cortex stimulation produce variations in personality traits, as assessed by the Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory 2 (MMPI2), the Clinical Depression Questionnaire (IPAT-CDQ) and the Anxiety Scale Questionnaire (IPAT-ASQ) in pharmaco-resistant subjects with functional chronic pain syndrome. Chronic pain syndrome was related to Hypochondriasis, Hysteria and Depression (Applegate et Al., 2005; Davis et Al., 2000).

Method. Seven pharmaco-resistant patients (5 males and 2 females; mean age: 54 sd: 14) affected by functional chronic pain syndrome (experimental group) waiting for motor-cortex stimulation and seven patients (control group, matched for age and gender) admitted at the Neurosurgery Department where the pain lasting less than six months and related to identified cause, were included in this study. Pre-Post MMPI2, CDQ and ASQ assessments were performed for experimental group. Only pre-treatment assessments were performed in control group. T Student tests were used for compares.

Results. In experimental group, compared to control group, Pre-treatment assessment showed high levels of Anxiety and Depression at the IPAT scales and pathological scores to the Hs D and Hy MMPI scales; In the experimental group, Post-treatment showed a decrease in Hy and D MMPI scales.

Conclusion. In subjects with functional chronic pain syndrome, Neurosurgery stimulation seems to be efficacious to decrease the levels of hysteria and depression, however it did not affect the high levels of Hypochondriasis.