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Electroconvulsive therapy in the psychiatric depatement of the Mahdia EPS over two years

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Introduction: The electroconvulsive therapy is an ancient therapeutic technique used in the traitment of certain psychiatric diseases.

Objectives: discuss the technical aspects, indications, therapeutic response and tolerance of ECT

Methods: This was a descriptive retrospective study that interested all patients who were hospitalized in the psychiatric department of the Mahdia University Hospital in 2017 and 2018 and were benefited from ECT sessions

Results: The number of patients who received ECT was 34, representing 4.33% of patients, 25 men and 9 women with an average age of 39, the number of ECT sessions was 785. The major diagnosis was bipolar disorder in 47,1% of patients, followed by schizophrenia in 35,3% and major depressive disorder in 14,7 %. Resistance to treatment and major suicidal risk were the main indications. All sessions were performed in a bilateral temporal mode. the initial energy delivered varied between 50 and 101 millicoulombs. The duration of the crise obtained was predominantly between 21 and 30 seconds. The average number of sessions during the attack phase was 13.88, whereas it was 2.5 sessions during the consolidation phase. The mean scores of the psychometric evaluations showed a marked improvement, especially in the mania scores (65.89%) and the beck depression inventory (63.55%). Only four incidents were reported in all patients. Only five patients (14,7%) had side effects and the most marked effect was anterograde amnesia.

Conclusions: Mental health programs in Tunisia should promote the generalization of this method throughout the Tunisian territory, given the efficacy demonstrated in mood disorder, several psychoses and other psychiatric pathologie.

Keywords: electoconvulsive therapy; Treatment; Suicide; bipolar disorder

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Transcranial magnetic stimulation in the management of autism spectrum disorder: Narrative review

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Introduction: Fifty years ago, the estimated prevalence of autism was 30-60 per 10,000; now, it has increased to 18.5 per 1,000. Autism disorders are 4.3 times as prevalent among boys as among girls.

Objectives: This systematic review provides an overview of the management of AD with Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation.

Methods: A systematic review was conducted using ("Autism spectrum disorder" AND "Repetitive Transcranial Magnetic stimulation" AND "RTMS" OR "Children and adolescent") in PubMed, Embase, and PsycINFO, resulted in 453 hits and finally qualified 18 studies.

Results: We found 18 eligible studies, 8 randomize controlled clinical trials, 10 non-controlled clinical trials comparing TMS effects with waiting-list controls (n = 6), sham-treatment (n = 8) and no control group (n = 4). There was a significant reduction of repetitive, stereotyped behaviors, irritability, social behavior, and executive function improvements with a medium-size effect. Eleven studies in this review had a moderate to high risk of bias due to small sample size, lack of blinding to treatment, and inadequate follow-up period. Four studies reported the stability of these gains in clinical outcomes for more than six months with no clarification after that.

Conclusions: The data encourages the potential safety and efficacy; it provides significant evidence to support TMS's efficacy in symptom severity reductions and improved clinical outcomes in children with autism. Therefore, future large-scale randomized controlled trials are required to conclude intervention efficacy in a larger sample size further.

Keywords: TMS; Children; Autism spectrum disorder; Repetitive Transcranial Magnetic stimulation

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Personality and psychophysiological self-regulation influence individual efficacy of neurofeedback in tension-type headache

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Introduction: Due to limited efficacy and side effects of pharmacological therapy in tension-type headache (TTH), alternative approaches are feasible. Neurofeedback is a noninvasive neuromodulation technique increasingly used in practice, but, however, there is limited research on its efficacy.

Objectives: To evaluate the efficacy of neurofeedback in TTH and to reveal the factors moderating treatment effects.

Methods: We analyzed the data from a pilot phase of an ongoing single case design cross-over sham-controlled study. Four females with TTH underwent 10 sessions of neurofeedback and 10 sessions of sham-neurofeedback in a randomized order. Participants filled a detailed headache diary 3 weeks before, during and 3 weeks after the treatment. At enrollment, we evaluated the personality factors with the MMPI, and performed a specially developed test on psychophysiological regulation of breath.