EFFECT OF DONEPEZIL AND RIVASTIGMINE ON COGNITIVE FUNCTIONS IN DEMENTIA

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Introduction: Dementia is acquired syndrome characterized by persistent deficit in memory and intellectual functions. Therapy of dementia has attracted a lot of attention worldwide.

Aim: To observe the therapeutic efficacy of Rivastigmine and Donepezil on Dementia.

Material and method: We selected 100 patients having dementia from various etiologies, included after satisfying the established standard clinical criteria. Using Wechsler's intelligence scale (modified according to Indian population) cognitive functions were estimated, before and after administering Rivastigmine and Donepezil (40 patients each, in standard doses). The scoring was done and change in score (repeated at interval of 3 months) was compared with 20 age matched control patients of dementia. Medications for co morbid disorders like antihypertensive, anti-platelets, lipid lowering agents, oral hypoglycemic and insulin etc were continued. Duration of study was 6.5 years.

Results: At end of study, significant halt in progress of dementia was observed in 12(30%) patients on Rivastigmine and 15 (37.5%) on Donepezil. Thus there were 33.75% patients who did not deteriorate. However no significant improvement was observed in any patient. Deterioration was progressive in 8 (40%) control patients.

Conclusion: Rivastigmine and Donepezil appear beneficial only in halting progress of dementia, without any significant improvement in cognition.