LEARNING DIFFERENCE WITH REPEATED KOREAN VERSION OF MINI-MENTAL STATUS EXAMINATION (K-MMSE) TESTING BETWEEN PATIENTS WITH ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE AND MILD COGNITIVE IMPAIRMENT

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Background: We compared the learning differences with K-MMSE between patients with Alzheimer's disease (AD) and mild cognitive impairment (MCI).

Methods: We screened subjects aged 65 or more in a community with K-MMSE. Subjects who were screened below 1 standard deviation of K-MMSE score adjusted for education and age norm were tested for neuropsychological tests in detail including repeated K-MMSE one to thirty days after the first screening day during January 2009 to September 2009. Thus, we recruited 29 consecutive patients with AD and 13 with MCI.

Results: With repeated K-MMSE, patients with AD scored 0.66 (±4.4) point higher than the first screening with the same test. Also, patients with MCI scored 0.92 (±3.1) point higher than the first. There was no difference in learning with repeated K-MMSE between patients with AD and MCI. The screening K-MMSE score (13.2±6.3 and 20.7±2.7), the repeated K-MMSE score (13.9±5.2 and 21.6±3.9), the delayed recall score of the Seoul Verbal learning test (0.3±0.8 and 3.9±2.5), and the delayed recall score of Rey complex figure test (0.6±1.5 and 5.0±4.8) were all significantly different between the patients with AD and MCI, respectively (p< 0.01, all mentioned tests).

Conclusion: Despite significant recall differences, there was no difference in the effect of learning with repeated K-MMSE testing between patients with AD and MCI.