Investigation of subjective memory complaints and objective memory deficit in elderly patients with major depression and mild cognitive impairment


*M.D., Ankara University School of Medicine, Department of Psychiatry, Geriatric Psychiatry Unit
**Ph.D., Hacettepe University, Faculty of Literature, Department of Psychology
***Psychologist, Ankara University, Department of Psychiatry, Geriatric Psychiatry Unit

European Congress of Alzheimer's Disease, 2011
Objective

- Subjective memory complaints (SMC) are frequent in elderly patients with major depression.
- In this study, we aimed to examine subjective memory complaints and objective memory deficit in elderly patients with major depression (MD), mild cognitive impairment (MCI) and healthy controls (HC).
Method

- The study consisted of 29 patients with MCI and 30 patients with MD who were consecutively admitted to the Ankara University School of Medicine Department of Psychiatry Geriatric Psychiatry Unit in March-May 2010.
- HC were 30 volunteers living at nursing homes in Ankara.
- All subjects were >60 years old.
- Petersen-Mayo diagnostic criteria were used for the diagnosis of MCI and DSM-IV-TR criteria were used for the diagnosis of MD.
- All participants were administered Turkish versions of the Mini Mental State Examination (MMSE), ADAS-cog, Subjective Memory Complaints Questionnaire (SMCQ) and Geriatric Depression Scale (GDS).
Subjective Memory Complaints Questionnaire (Youn JC et al. 2009)

1. Do you think that you have a memory problem?
2. Do you think that your memory is worse than 10 years ago?
3. Do you think that your memory is poorer than that of other people of a similar age?
4. Do you feel that your everyday life is difficult due to memory decline?
5. Do you have difficulty in remembering a recent event?
6. Do you have difficulty in remembering a conversation from a few days ago?
7. Do you have difficulty in remembering an appointment made a few days ago?
8. Do you have difficulty in recognizing familiar people?
9. Do you have difficulty in remembering where you placed objects?
10. Do you lose objects more often than you did previously?
11. Have you become lost near your home?
12. Do you have difficulty in remembering 2 or 3 items to buy when shopping?
13. Do you have difficulty in remembering to turn off the gas or lights?
14. Do you have difficulty in remembering the phone numbers of your own children?
Table-1: Comparison of the clinical characteristics,  
*one-way ANOVA, p<0.05

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>MCI</th>
<th>MD</th>
<th>HC</th>
<th>F</th>
<th>p</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age</td>
<td>71.5±6</td>
<td>69.2±4.8</td>
<td>71.4±7.1</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>0.27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Years of education</td>
<td>8±3.6</td>
<td>6.9±3.1</td>
<td>8.9±3.5</td>
<td>2.8</td>
<td>0.06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SMCQ</td>
<td>7.3±2.7</td>
<td>7.6±3.5</td>
<td>3.5±2.8</td>
<td>17.4</td>
<td>&lt;0.001*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MMSE</td>
<td>25.1±2.9</td>
<td>26±2.4</td>
<td>27.3±1.9</td>
<td>5.9</td>
<td>0.004*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ADAS-cog total</td>
<td>12.8±4.2</td>
<td>9.6±3.8</td>
<td>8.5±2.9</td>
<td>11.3</td>
<td>&lt;0.001*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ADAS-cog Word memory</td>
<td>5.3±0.9</td>
<td>4.60±1.26</td>
<td>4.1±1.3</td>
<td>7.5</td>
<td>0.001*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ADAS-cog Word recognition</td>
<td>3.9±1.6</td>
<td>3.09±1.92</td>
<td>2.6±1.2</td>
<td>5.2</td>
<td>0.007*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GDS</td>
<td>10.4±7</td>
<td>19.1±3.9</td>
<td>6.4±4.2</td>
<td>43.5</td>
<td>&lt;0.001*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Results

❖ One-way ANOVA revealed significant difference between groups in terms of SMCQ (MD≈MCI>HC), MMSE (MCI<MD≈HC), GDS (MD>MCI>HC), total ADAS-cog (MCI<MD≈HC), ADAS-cog word memory (MCI<MD≈HC) and word recognition (MCI<MD≈HC) subscale scores.
Results

- When GDS scores were taken as a covariate, results did not change.
- ANCOVA yielded significant GDS*SMCQ interaction (F=6.44, p=0.01), however GDS*ADAS-cog total or subscale scores were not significant.
Conclusion

- SMC which should be taken into consideration in the elderly, seems to be related to depressive symptoms.
- Patients with MD have similar SMC with MCI patients, however measurements for the objective assessment of memory discriminate patients with MD and MCI.
- Furthermore, there is no need for the remission of depression in order to test memory dysfunction in elderly patients with MD.
References