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The role of psychologists in autoimmune syndromes

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For a very long time it has been well known that different autoimmune syndromes are followed by neuropsychological symptoms. These neuropsychological symptoms often mimic neuropsychiatric disorders and it is very important to distinguish between comorbidity and psychological symptoms that are direct consequences of autoimmune state.

The role of psychologist becomes an important one, but sending autoimmune patients to complete neuropsychological evaluation is still very rare. Behavioral analysis, personality analysis, evaluation of cognitive functioning, executive functions analysis, emotional functioning analysis are needed for autoimmune patients in the light of vivid autoimmune influence. Gradients of noticed psychological disability are rarely deterrent on the individual level. Without this detailed information it is very hard to understand the symptomatic mosaic. It is difficult to create an individual treatment plan for autoimmune patients with neuropsychological symptoms, considering that we know that unique 'tailor made' individual treatment plan is the best one.

We are at the disposal of a great variety of psychological instruments with adequate psychometric properties. Most of the instruments are developed or used as a part of scientific studies. These instruments are not suitable for differential psychological diagnostics in practice. This oral presentation will try to present most efficient psychological instruments that can be used for this purpose, as well as results that we can expect for different autoimmune syndromes, like Systemic Lupus, Hashimoto's, Rheumatoid Arthritis, Irritating Bowl Syndrome, Crohn Disease etc.

Are you currently an Early Career Researcher?

No

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