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The occurrence of symptoms of fear of COVID-19 among participants of the Polish University of the Third Age

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Introduction: The older adults have been considered one of the groups at highest risk of SARS-CoV-2 infection and death due to COVID-19. Fear of SARS-CoV-2 infections has become widespread. It's constantly being enhanced by the media reports and social distancing principle.

Objectives: The aim of the study was to assessment the occurrence of symptoms of fear of COVID-19 among participants of the Polish University of the Third Age (UTA).

Methods: The study included 296 participants of the UTA in Poland, including 258 women and 38 men. The study conducted with the use of the following validated psychometric scales: General Anxiety Disorder-7 (GAD-7), Short Health Anxiety Inventory (SHAI) and State-Trait Anxiety Inventory (STAI).

Results: The mean scores in STAI and SHAI demonstrated mild symptoms indicative of anxiety disorders in the older adults. Women and men did differ significantly in terms of the scores obtained in STAI(X-1) (p=0.002) and STAI(X-2) (p=0.020). There were no statistically significant differences between respondents with higher education and those with a different level of education. The single respondents differed significantly from divorced ones in terms of STAI(X-1) (p=0.046). Moreover, widows/widowers differed significantly from divorced ones in terms of STAI(X-2) (p=0.045) and GAD-7 (p=0.032).

Conclusions: The subjective experience of anxiety symptoms associated with fear of contracting COVID-19 was increased due to the ongoing pandemic, but was not significantly high in the analysed population of older people. COVID-19-related anxiety was significantly more common in lonely individuals. Women and men differed significantly in terms of perceived state anxiety and trait anxiety measured by STAI.

Disclosure: No significant relationships.

Keywords: fear; Covid-19; Older Adults; Anxiety

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An old way of forgetting

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Introduction: During the last decades, the incidence of syphilis is on the rising, particularly in the United States of America and Europe. Neurosyphilis is a disease that has a vast differential diagnostic. With that in mind, clinicians have some difficulties to identify it rapidly. A case of a 57-year-old man is presented, with a brutal change in his behavior, associated with a dementia-like syndrome. He is diagnosed with neurosyphilis.

Objectives: The main goal is to present his clinical psychiatric symptoms and diagnosis procedure, the treatment that he received and his clinical outcome in the psychogeriatric department.

Methods: The treatment was based in an integrated framework of pharmacology and psychotherapy.

Results: The patient was able to slowly recover and to get back home, we a solid structure to make the follow up.

Conclusions: This clinical vignette represents a growing number of adult patients that present themselves for the first time with dementia-like symptoms. It is important to remember, that many diseases are capable of mimicking dementia and their exclusion before admitting a diagnosis of dementia is mandatory.

Disclosure: No significant relationships.

Keywords: Syphilis; Dementia

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What we know about Auditory Charles Bonnet Syndrome?

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Introduction: Charles Bonnet syndrome (CBS) is defined like visual hallucinations found in individuals who are not necessarily mentally ill, who have visual impairment and no cognitive deficits. Although CBS make reference to visual hallucinations, in this case we are going to deal about Auditory Charles Bonnet Syndrome (aCBS), a very infrequent condition that consists in the presentation of musical hallucinations in patients with sensorineural hearing loss and which etiology is not clearly due to a psychiatric condition.

Objectives: Review the scientific literature available on aCBS to see how much we know about this syndrome.

Methods: Review of available literature sources were obtained through electronic search in PubMed database.

Results: Musical hallucination is a complex form of auditory hallucinations. The most common of these are idiopathic and they present in elderly patients with deafness or impaired audition, which suggests a deterioration of cerebral function. The pathophysiologic mechanism is not understood. These patients tend to have intact reality tests. The time course is variable. In those cases in which it is possible, treating the hearing loss can lead to a significant improvement of the symptom. However, when every this strategies are insufficient, pharmacological treatments can be considered.

Conclusions: - aCBS is an uncommon condition characterized by the presence of complex auditory hallucinations that mainly affect elderly patients with hearing loss. - In most cases there is no previous psychiatric history. - The etiology and pathophysioplogic are not well defined. - There is no etiological treatment. We can use pharmacological and no pharmacological methods of treatment.

Disclosure: No significant relationships.

Keywords: old age; Charles-Bonnet Syndrome; auditory