

PSYCHOLOGICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF PATIENTS WITH PSYCHOGENIC NONEPILEPTIC SEIZURES AND PSYCHOGENIC MOVEMENT DISORDERS IN MMPI-2

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Background: An important part of treatment of psychogenic nonepileptic seizures (PNES) and psychogenic movement disorders (PMDs) is the avoidance of iatrogenic damage. Early and accurate diagnosis is important for appropriate treatment. For establishing clear diagnosis is useful psychological testing.

Aims: The aim of this study is to explore and describe personality characteristics in patients with PNES and PMDs in The Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory-2 (MMPI-2) and improve understanding of which type of personality contributes to development of somatization or conversion disorder.

Methods: Participants: We analyzed group of 10 patients with confirmed diagnosis of psychogenic nonepileptic seizures, the diagnosis was based on negative video-EEG monitoring, the clinical assessment by experienced epileptologist and psychologist. Another group of 10 patients with confirmed diagnosis of PMDs based on careful neurological and psychological assessment.

Test: All patients underwent psychological diagnostic interview and completed the MMPI-2 administered by paper-and-pencil. All the MMPI-2 data were computed and scored.

Results: We described scale patterns in PNES and PMDs patients with assist of MMPI-2 clinical scales that comprise Hypochondriasis, Depression, Hysteria, Psychopathic, Masculinity/Femininity, Paranoia, Psychastenia, Schizophrenia, Hypomania and Social Introversion. We depicted constellation of scales characteristic for both our groups.

Conclusions: Psychological assessment of personality features may help us to better understanding of pathogenesis of these disorders and support effective diagnostic and treatment process.