

MEETING ABSTRACT

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Electrophysiological changes during EMDR treatment in patients with combat-related PTSD

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From 1st International Congress on Neurobiology and Clinical Psychopharmacology and European Psychiatric Association Conference on Treatment Guidance Thessaloniki, Greece. 19-22 November 2009

Background

Efficiency of the EMDR procedure is based on a presumption of neuropsychological changes in therapeutic process. The aim of the investigation is to scan and give evidence of electroactivity changes, during the process of EMDR procedure and after finishing it.

Materials and methods

We have recorded a continual polygraph EEG, before, during and after EMDR therapy, in patient with combat-related PTSD.

Results

Before the treatment, EEG recorded basic activity of low voltage (attenuation) of 20 μ V, frequency of beta range (17-26 Hz), bioccipital, with no pathologic activity. Patient had prominent vegetative symptoms (anxiety, heart rate 100/min). Background activity immediately after the treatment records the amplitude values of around 50 μ V, frequency of around 11-12 Hz. After the end of the treatment background activity possesses the amplitude value of about 37 μ V, holding the persistence in frequency.

Conclusions

If the EMDR treatment is successful, sudden increase of amplitude activity is noted intensely. This sharp border line, which signifies normal activity, appears in 2-3 seconds after the desensitize phase. The investigation suggests that from neurophysiological point of view, cortex (in EMDR procedure), works according to the principle "all or nothing". If there is processing of traumatic memory, the activity gets completely normal. If the therapy is not successful, there are numerous artefacts,

because of increased muscle activity. This kind of activity, in our investigation is marked as "Artefact therapy".

The results, indicate maintaining low level of amplitude values of electrocortical activities during the treatment, as well as increase after successful treatment. The increase of amplitude is correlated to decrease of anxiety after the successful treatment.

Acknowledgements

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Published: 22 April 2010

Reference

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doi:10.1186/1744-859X-9-S1-S209

Cite this article as: Grbesa et al.: Electrophysiological changes during EMDR treatment in patients with combat-related PTSD. *Annals of General Psychiatry* 2010 **9**(Suppl 1):S209.

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