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Psychometric properties and clinical correlates of the Frontal Behaviour Inventory in progressive supranuclear palsy: data from the PSP-NET

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Objectives: Behavioural symptoms, such as apathy, disinhibition, dysphoria and anxiety are frequent complaints in progressive supranuclear palsy (PSP) [1]. Specific scales evaluating neuropsychiatric disturbances in PSP are lacking. The Frontal Behaviour Inventory (FBI) is widely used to evaluate behavioural issues in dementia. Aims of the present study were to (I) report the psychometric properties of the FBI in PSP and (II) describe the clinical correlates of behavioural symptoms in PSP patients. Design, setting and participants: PSP patients diagnosed according to the Movement Disorder Society Criteria underwent a clinical interview, a motor evaluation, cognitive and behaviour testing. Data were collected from several centres throughout Italy within the PSP-NET supported by Fondazione LIMPE.

Results: Two-hundred and eight subjects, with mean (\pm DS) age of 63.90 ± 12.25 years and mean (\pm DS) education of 9.82 ± 3.98 , were screened for the present study. One-hundred-twenty-two were men (67,80%) and 59 were women (32,60%). The internal consistency was high (Cronbach's alpha = 0.868) and corrected item-total correlation was > 0.40 for the majority of items. Principal component analysis revealed that five factors with the highest eigenvalues accounted for 54.92% of the total variance. Behavioural aspects measured with FBI associated with less education and more aggressive and apathetic symptoms.

Conclusion: The FBI is a reliable tool for the assessment of behavioural symptoms in PSP. Higher behavioural symptoms scores may represent a marker of prevalence of aggressive and apathetic aspects in PSP. The lack of items exploring depressive symptoms in the FBI may justify the low total variance displayed by factor analysis.

Bibliography:

[1] Agarwal S., Gilbert R. Progressive Supranuclear Palsy. In: StatPearls [Internet]. Treasure Island (FL): StatPearls Publishing; 2022 Jan. 2022 Apr 3. PMID: 30252354. Bookshelf ID: NBK526098.