

Clinical forms of subcortical aphasia in stroke and their recovery using the sophrology method

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Abstract

Background. In addition to the classic Broca and Wernicke areas, other regions of the left or right brain hemisphere play an important role in speech, so that lesions at this level can induce various forms of aphasia.

Aims. Based on clinical data correlated with computed tomography (CT) findings, the following were studied: the clinical forms of subcortical aphasia in ischemic and hemorrhagic stroke; the correlation between the clinical form of subcortical aphasia and the topography of the vascular lesion in the left or right hemisphere, based on CT findings, as well as the recovery of these aphasic patients using the sophrology method.

Methods. Of 182 patients with stroke accompanied by aphasic elements, 31 patients (17%) had subcortical stroke in the form of brain infarction and hemorrhage, accompanied by aphasic language disorders. These cases with subcortical aphasia were investigated clinically, paraclinically by CT, as well as by neuropsychological testing. All patients underwent therapy for the recovery of aphasia.

Results. The most frequent form of subcortical aphasia was due to left thalamic hematoma, followed by left thalamic infarction, while the lowest frequency was found in left basal nuclei infarction and capsuloputamina infarction. There was one case of aphasia due to right thalamic hematoma. The results of the recovery therapy of aphasic patients using the sophrology method are superior to those obtained by the classical method.

Conclusions. In the acute phase of the disease (during the first 3 weeks), all patients had a mixed form of aphasia, due to the more extensive brain edema. The clinical forms of subcortical aphasia 8 weeks after the onset of the disease were as follows: 9 patients (29.03%) with residual non-fluent aphasia, 8 patients (25.80%) with residual fluent aphasia, 5 patients (16.12%) with transcortical motor aphasia, 5 patients (16.12%) with transcortical sensory aphasia, 4 patients (12.90%) with transcortical mixed aphasia. The sophrology method is more effective than the classical method for the recovery of aphasic patients with ischemic or hemorrhagic subcortical vascular lesions and can be used with positive results in all age groups.

Keywords: aphasia, subcortical lesions, computed tomography (CT), sophrology method.