

Abstract

The thesis deals with epilepsy, its two most common psychiatric comorbidities, and the possibilities of screening and diagnosis of these comorbidities. The literature review section introduces the reader to epilepsy, the classification of depressive and generalized anxiety disorders, their relationship to epilepsy, and currently used methods for screening these mental illnesses. The last chapter introduces the reader to the Emotional Thermometer Method, its origins and development, and the work published to date on the use of this method in people with epilepsy.

The research part aims to validate the criterion validity of the Emotional Thermometer for depression and anxiety screening and its comparison with conventional methods BDI-II and GAD-7, using as a reference method the sub-modules of M.I.N.I., the gold standard based on the diagnostic criteria of DSM IV and MKN-10. Another aim is to identify potential risk factors for anti-seizure medication use and sociodemographic and clinical characteristics in epilepsy. The study includes a total of 222 individuals with epilepsy. The results based on ROC curve analysis indicate good results in terms of concurrent validity of the Emotional Thermometer and the suitability of its use for screening depression and anxiety in people with epilepsy as part of regular visits to neurological outpatient clinics. The regression analysis findings showed that the prevalence of depression and anxiety was related to the amount of ASM used, defined daily dose of ASM, three specific types of ASM, number of years of education, and widowhood.

Keywords

Emotion Thermometers, Epilepsy, Screening, Depression, Anxiety