Abstract

Identification of individuals with low and high risk for future dementia has emerged as an important clinical and public health issue. To address this issue, we compared two commonly used memory tests initially in non-demented elderly persons with subjective memory complaint or mild cognitive impairment and followed them for an average of two years. The first test called Enhanced Cued Recall (ECR), provides support for the semantic encoding of memorandum at the time of the study and supplies category cues at the time of retrieval whereas the second test, the Auditory Verbal Learning Test (AVLT), does not support this paradigm.

In this retrospective study, we compared initial neuropsychological performance of patients from the Memory Disorders Clinic in the Department of Neurology at Motol University Hospital. The results were analyzed among the patients who developed dementia and those who did not. Then, the prediction abilitities of the two measures of memory were compared. Our results showed that the test AVLT predicts incident dementia better than the test ECR.

The group likely to develop dementia becomes a target for early therapeutic interventions.