

ABSTRACT

The response inhibition ability is part of executive functions, which may be defined as a set of higher cognitive processes particularly located in the frontal-subcortical circuits. Since the main obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD) symptoms seem to be relevant to the inability of inhibiting certain stimuli, it can be assumed that response inhibition in these patients will be disrupted. Studies related to this topic have brought inconsistent results. Our research dealing with OCD patients has focused on two dimensions of the response inhibition – the behavioral inhibition, which generally includes the behavior control (for instance impulse control), and the cognitive interference, which is considered to be the cognitive component of inhibition process and is mostly associated with the control of internal cognitive processes. The first part of our research included the verification of hypothesis, stating that the increased severity of obsession is associated with the degree of disrupted ability of cognitive interference, while the severity of compulsions correlates with the degree of disrupted performance in tests measuring behavioral inhibition. The second research objective was to clarify whether the inhibition response ability was different between patients when the predominance of symptoms was taken into an account. In our research we compared the performance between patients from *contamination and washing compulsions dimension* and patients from *aggressive, sexual, religious, somatic obsession and checking compulsions dimension*. The cognitive interference was measured using Stroop test, while behavioral inhibition was measured using computer-assisted test Go/no-go and Stop Signal Task. The first part of research has not proved a significant correlation between compulsion and degree of behavioral inhibition ability, correlation has not even been found between the degree of obsession and cognitive interference. The second part of research statistically proved a significant difference between two dimensions of symptoms in the number of omitted reactions in Go/No-go test.

KEYWORDS

obsessive-compulsive disorder, behavioral inhibition, cognitive interference, response inhibition, dimensional approach to OCD symptoms