

() R1 () R2 () R3 () PG0 () PG1 () Estagiário () Tecnólogo ()
PIBIC Last Name - Sacai First Name - Paula Middle - Yuri

Service (sector) ElectrophysiologyNº CEP

ELECTROPHYSIOLOGIC TESTS IN SUSPECTED PSYCHOGENIC VISUAL IMPAIRMENT AND OCULAR MALINGERING

P. Y. Sacai, T. Millan, A. Berezovsky, S. R. Salomão. Clinical Electrophysiology of Vision Lab, Dept. of Ophthalmology, Federal Univ of São Paulo, São Paulo, São Paulo, Brazil.

PURPOSE: Assessment of visual function in suspected psychogenic visual impairment and ocular malingering is difficult because most of the tests used require patient's cooperation. Electrophysiologic tests provide objective assessment of the visual system and can contribute to elucidate the diagnosis in these conditions. The objectives of this study were to evaluate the usefulness of electrophysiologic tests in identifying suspected psychogenic visual impairment and ocular malingering.

METHODS: In this retrospective study, clinical charts from 17 patients aging from 6 to 55 years (9 females and 8 males) referred from their ophthalmologists to visual electrophysiological assessment due to suspicion of psychogenic visual impairment or ocular malingering were analyzed. All patients had their best corrected monocular visual acuity measured for distance with ETDRS chart and underwent pattern-reversal visually evoked potentials (VEP). Full-field electroretinograms (ERGs) were also obtained in 9 patients. VEP and ERG amplitudes and latencies were classified as normal or abnormal according to normative data from our lab. Psychogenic visual impairment was diagnosed in cases with visual loss complaint, reduced VA, normal ophthalmic exam, normal electrophysiological results and suspected psychiatric co-morbidity without any financial motivation. Ocular malingering was diagnosed in cases with visual loss complaint, with financial/legal motivation, reduced VA, normal ophthalmic exam and normal electrophysiological results.

RESULTS: Females were statistically younger (mean = 27 ± 14 yrs, Md= 25 yrs) than males (mean = 41 ± 8 , Md= 40 yrs) in this small cohort ($P=0.022$). Visual acuity ranged from NLP to 20/160 in the worse eye, all of them with normal pattern VEP results. After electrophysiological assessment, psychogenic visual impairment was diagnosed in 7/10 patients (7 females) with severe bilateral (5) or unilateral (2) and ocular malingering was found in 10/17 patients (9 males, 1 female), with 5 bilateral and 5 unilateral cases.

CONCLUSIONS: Electrophysiologic tests, could be useful in demonstrating psychogenic visual impairment or ocular malingering in suspected patients. Objective visual acuity measurement provided by sweep-VEP should be considered in future studies.