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THE ROLE OF NEUROIMAGING IN THE EARLY DIAGNOSIS OF CHRONIC CEREBRAL ISCHEMIA

NEUROIMAGING

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Background and Aims: Chronic cerebral ischemia (CCI), affecting people of older working age, represents a heavy socio-economic burden on society. The aim of our study was to demonstrate the possibilities of magnetic resonance diagnostics of early-stage chronic cerebral ischemia.
Methods: The study involved 44 people (women - 54.5%, men - 45.5%) aged 37 to 57 years with chronic cerebral ischemia of the early stage. The control group consisted of 25 conditionally healthy people aged 38-55. Based on standard MRI modes, 5 signs of cerebrovascular pathology were assessed according to the STRIVE criteria.
Results: The analysis of outpatient records and anamnestic data revealed the main symptoms of the early stage of chronic cerebral ischemia in the study sample. As a result of the control study of brain MRI, in 100% of cases DWI and T2 did not reveal acute cerebrovascular accidents, in particular recent lacunar infarctions and microbleeds. There was a clear correlation between the increase in leukoaraiosis and the patient's age, as well as the expansion of perivascular spaces (p=0.01). Cerebral atrophy was observed in 3 (21.4%) patients of the main group. Despite the severity of leukoaraiosis, atrophy and expanded perivascular spaces in elderly patients, cognitive functions are preserved due to the compensatory capabilities of the cerebral perfusion system and good development of associative fibers.
Conclusions: Patients with early-stage chronic cerebral ischemia are not expected to have all STRIVE criteria on MRI.