ENCEPHALAPP STROOP TEST AS SCREENING TOOL FOR DETECTION OF MINIMAL HEPATIC ENCEPHALOPATHY IN PATIENTS WITH LIVER CIRRHOSIS – PILOT STUDY

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A prospective case-control study of 111 participants found that the Stroop test, particularly ONTIME and total time parameters, significantly differentiated patients with minimal hepatic encephalopathy from healthy controls, with strongest performance in younger patients and those with higher education.

KEY POINTS

- The study included 59 cirrhosis patients with minimal hepatic encephalopathy confirmed by animal naming test and 52 healthy controls, conducted at University Clinical Center of Serbia from February 2020 to August 2022.
- Median ONTIME was significantly higher in MHE patients compared to controls (122.3 vs 105.3 seconds, $p<0.05$), as was total time (228.0 vs 195.6 seconds, $p<0.05$), while OFFTIME did not differ between groups.
- Subgroup analysis showed statistically significant differences in all Stroop parameters for participants with 13 or more years of education ($p=0.003$-0.004) and those under 45 years of age ($p=0.001$-0.01), but not for those with lower education or age 45 and older.
- The authors conclude that Stroop test could be a valuable tool for detecting minimal hepatic encephalopathy in cirrhosis patients, particularly in younger populations and those with higher educational levels.

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