

Psychoemotional state of patients 60+ years old with chronic cerebrovascular insufficiency relocating with their family from the far north

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A – Study Design, B – Data Collection, C – Statistical Analysis, D – Data Interpretation, E – Manuscript Preparation, F – Literature Search, G – Funds Collection

Summary Background. In the Soviet period, people came to work in the Far North of the Krasnoyarsk Territory. Now they are retired. Remaining retired in the North is not economically feasible. Resettlement of unemployed elderly people to the more favorable southern climatic zones of central Siberia is connected with a demographic situation. For families 60+ years old, the “From the Extreme North to the South” program was created. The article presents the results of studies on the psychoemotional state of migrants 60+ years old.

Objectives. To study the psychoemotional state of patients 60+ years old with chronic cerebrovascular insufficiency when adapting from the North to the South.

Material and methods. 98 migrants from the North to the South were examined. These were people with a chronic insufficiency of brain blood circulation at the age of 60+ years old. Patients were tested utilizing the G. Eysenck and A.S. Zigmond, R.P. Snaith. Hospital Anxiety and Depression Scale.

Results. Various types of personality were revealed: extroverts – 60.2% (59 people), introverts – 39.8% (39 people). Emotionally stable migrants 60+ years old – 25.5% (28 people). Emotionally unstable – 74.5% (70 people). The sociability combination with impulsiveness was characteristic with a high level of emotional instability (17.27 ± 0.26 points). At very high level (19.5 ± 0.31 points), low self-esteem and an emotional block were revealed.

Conclusions. 1. Emotionally stable migrants 60+ years old readapt fairly. 2. High and very high levels of neuroticism demonstrate the formation of anxiety disorders and restriction of adaptive opportunities in migrants 60+ years old. Treatment and prophylactic actions are provided to them.

Key words: Original Input (length: 6766), potential of elderly migrants, social networks of elderly migrants: on the basis of familial and intra-ethnic support.

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Background

In the documents of the European regional bureau of the World Health Organization (WHO), the age from 60 to 74 years is considered as elderly; 75–89 years – senile; 90 years and older – the longevity period. In foreign literature, the distinction of “young elderly” is 65–74 years, “old” – 75–84 years, and “very old” – 85 years [1].

During the Soviet period, people came to work in the Far North of the Krasnoyarsk Territory. Now they are retired. Remaining retired in the North is not economically feasible. Resettlement of unemployed elderly people from northern areas of the Krasnoyarsk Territory to the more favorable southern climatic zones of central Siberia is connected with a demographic situation. During resettlement, the elderly migrants who have lived in the north up to 20 years have problems of social and economic arrangement and a complex of the medical and psychological problems connected with the readaptation to climatic conditions [2–4]. The problem of the adaptation of elderly people draws the attention not only of clinical physicians [5], but also of representatives of fundamental fields [6]. Researches gain

complex character and exist on adjacent fields of ecology, physiology, psychology, medicine, economy [7–9].

The Collins English Dictionary (2014) gives the definition of readaptation or renewed adaptation as “a process or example of adapting something again or the state of being adapted again”, as the adaptation of an individual to new conditions of an earlier habitual environment, in view of a long absence from this region.

In the works of many authors, it is noted that people of various ages react rather emotionally to changes in their life [10, 11]. The psychoemotional state is fundamental in life [12, 13]. The data available in this field is limited and concerns only one of the parties of this problem connected with the characteristic of the state of health of the person during adaptation to the conditions of other latitudes [1, 14]. This statement has also influenced the choice of the direction of our research.

Objectives

To study the psychoemotional state of patients 60+ years old with chronic cerebrovascular insufficiency in readaptation.



Material and methods

Diagnostics were carried out among 98 elderly people, migrants from the North to the South, from the age of 60–74 years (30 men and 68 women), with clinical signs of chronic cerebrovascular insufficiency. The diagnosis has been verified. The psychoemotional condition has been estimated on G. Eysenck [15] with testing on Hospital Anxiety and Depression Scale (HADS) developed by A.S. Zigmund and R.P. Snaith especially for sick people [16].

Patients with chronic cerebrovascular insufficiency of 3d type, patients with diabetes, anemia, liver and renal failure, dysfunction of the thyroid gland, as well as patients abusing alcohol and taking medication for Parkinson's disease were excluded from the research.

The analysis of data was carried out with use of a statistical package of the program STATISTICA, ver. 6.0 (StatSoft Inc. USA). Statistical analysis of the obtained data was carried out utilizing the nonparametric method. The statistical importance of distinctions of qualitative signs was estimated by means of criterion χ^2 with the amendment of Yeats. The results of research of qualitative signs are presented in the form of absolute and relative percentage, with a confidence interval of 95%. The results were considered statistically significant at a significance value of $p < 0.05$.

Results

Indicators of the psychoemotional state of patients 60+ years old with chronic cerebrovascular insufficiency in readaptation are presented in Table 1.

Inspection of the psychoemotional state utilizing the G. Eysenck Scale [15] has revealed moderately expressed psychological types of introversion and extraversion, irrespective of gender. All examined migrants had a moderated range of an extraversion (14–15 points). Among patients 60+ years old, these types of personality were found: extroverts – 60.2% (59 people); introverts – 39.8% (39 people); $p < 0.01$.

Emotional stability was registered in 25.5% of the examined elderly people with chronic cerebrovascular insufficiency. The level of neuroticism was in the range of average emotional stability (11–14 points). The frequency of emotional instability on G. Eysenck "neuroticism-emotional stability" [15] was revealed in 74.5% cases (70 people); $p < 0.001$.

The level of emotional pressure was mainly within the range of high emotional instability (17–18 points). Gender distinctions in the frequency of emotional instability occurrence were not found. The combination of sociability with hypererethism, impertunity and impulsiveness was charac-

teristic for elderly migrants with a high level of neuroticism (emotional instability of 17.27 ± 0.26 points). The growth of personal uneasiness in migrants was followed by a feeling of uncertainty, mood swings and a delay of emotions.

At very high levels of neuroticism (emotional instability of 19.5 ± 0.31 points), a low level of self-esteem was revealed; isolation and uneasiness was combined with an emotional block. Often these people treated themselves critically, they were not satisfied with their own behavior and level of achievements. Women gave low estimate to their personality in general and men gave low estimate to their self-confidence and ability to cope with difficulties. This corresponded to unsatisfactory readaptation [17, 18]. A considerable prevalence of disturbing and depressive frustration in migrants considered as "old age" (65.9% (65 people) on the HADS Scale [16]) was noted in this group. 75.5% (49 people) of those supervised had comorbidity of alarm and depression. Subclinical alarm (71.7% (46 people)) and subclinical depression (85.5% (55 people)) were prevalent among elderly migrants.

Discussion

Literature demonstrates that irrespective of age and gender, patients with diseases of the nervous system had changes in their emotional condition of different degree of expressiveness [13, 19, 20]. The prevalence of elderly patients with emotional instability was statistically significant in our research. The probability of success increases if there is an improvement in the quality of life as a result of resettlement [21, 22].

The revealed psychological types of personality in combination with the level of neuroticism cause the formation of individual adaptation and adaptive activity in immigrants from the North to the South. The features of the emotional state in migrants 60+ years old with high and very high level of neuroticism demonstrate the formation of anxiety disorders, which is confirmed by data in literature [23]. A similar restriction of the adaptive opportunities of this category of people demands medical supervision and carrying out the treatment and prophylactic actions, including prescription of medication, which improve the psychoemotional sphere [24, 25].

Conclusions

1. Emotionally stable migrants 60+ years old readapt fairly.
2. High and very high level of neuroticism demonstrates the formation of anxiety disorders and the restriction of adaptive opportunities in migrants 60+ years old. Treatment and prophylactic actions are provided to them.

Table 1. Indicators of the psychoemotional state of patients 60+ years old with chronic cerebrovascular insufficiency in readaptation, $n = 98$

Indicators	Psychoemotional state of patients 60+ years old with chronic cerebrovascular insufficiency in readaptation							
	G. Eysenck Scale [15]				HADS Scale [16]			
	Extraversion	Introversion	Emotional stability	Emotional instability	Norm	Anxiety	Norm	Depression
Absolute number	59	39	28	70	33	65	33	65
%	60.2	39.8	25.5	74.5	34.1	65.9	34.1	65.9
95% confidence interval	53.96– –66.44	33.38– –46.21	17.12– –33.88	69.26– –79.74	27.41– –40.79	63.98– –71.82	27.41– –40.79	63.98– –71.82
χ^2	6.89		36.0		20.9		20.9	
p	$p < 0.01$		$p < 0.001$		$p < 0.001$		$p < 0.001$	

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