

ABSTRACT

Mild cognitive impairment and Alzheimer's disease: the differential diagnosis and the efficacy of cognitive rehabilitation

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Aging is strongly associated with memory complaints and memory disorders. The question for a clinician is if memory complaints are compatible with normal aging or they are signs of mild cognitive impairment or Alzheimer's disease. This is a continuing education article on the differential diagnosis between Alzheimer's disease, mild cognitive impairment and normal aging considering the clinical, neuroimaging and mainly the neuropsychological data. A "-battery-" of neuropsychological tools is suggested, according to the international literature. The efficacy of cognitive rehabilitation is discussed for cases ranging from mild to moderate stages of Alzheimer's disease, considering the stage of the disease, the duration of the cognitive intervention and the motivation of the patients.