

rozniecania jako głównego mechanizmu patogenetycznego w powstawaniu majaczenia alkoholowego wydaje się więc mało uzasadnione.

Słowa kluczowe: rozniecanie (kindling) / abstynencyjne napady drgawkowe / majaczenie alkoholowe

Marcin Wojnar, Zdzisław Bizoń, Dariusz Wasilewski, Artur Cedro

The kindling phenomenon in the pathogenesis of alcohol withdrawal seizures and delirium tremens

SUMMARY

A number of explanatory hypotheses concerning pathogenesis of alcohol withdrawal (AW) seizures and delirium tremens (DT) point to the role of the kindling mechanism. The aim of the study was to assess on the grounds of clinical observations the hypothetical role of the kindling phenomenon in the development and course of withdrawal seizures and DT. 2186 medical records of 1179 patients hospitalized in the Nowowiejski Hospital in Warsaw in the years 1973-1987 were analyzed using a structured questionnaire. Aggravation of symptoms severity in consecutive AW episodes regarded as an indicator of kindling was found in 22,5% of cases. In the majority of cases a negative correlation was noted between DT severity and the number of consecutive AW episodes. Patients with DT progression in successive episodes as compared to those without progression were older, later became heavy drinkers, consumed less alcohol daily, more frequently suffered from somatic diseases, had more AW seizures before the onset of DT, and were more often dependent on other psychoactive substances. In 11% of cases the first DT episode was preceded by AW seizures. The incidence of seizures was associated with significantly more frequent head injuries in the past, and with more frequent liver complaints and neurological disorders during hospitalization. No relationship was found between both AW seizures and DT incidence and either the duration of heavy drinking or the number of previous hospitalizations. The research findings indicate a limited role of the kindling phenomenon in the incidence of AW seizures and DT development. Symptoms of kindling were found in only about one fourth of alcohol dependent patients. Thus, it seems that the kindling process cannot be validly considered as the main pathogenic mechanism underlying the development of withdrawal DT.

Key words: kindling, alcohol withdrawal seizures, delirium tremens

PIŚMIENNICTWO

1. Andreassen O.A., Jorgensen H.A. *Tardive dyskinesia: behavioral effects of repeated intracerebroventricular haloperidol injections in rats do not confirm the kindling hypothesis.* Pharmacol. Biochem. Behav., 1994, 49, 309-312.