

ABSTRACT

Autobiographical memory (AM) including both personal semantic and episodic memories, over the entire life span, is thought to be of relatively permanent in nature. AM refers to a collection of old memories related to one's self. AM loss is a common complaint among patients with dementia and have significant effects on subjective wellbeing.

The purpose of the study are to examine the Autobiographical memory (AM) impairment and subjective wellness of aged individuals (≥ 50 years) suffering from Alzheimer's disease (AD), vascular dementia (VaD) and Parkinson's disease dementia (PDD) in comparison to normal subjects and to study the sex differences, if any, in impairment of AM and wellness and association between wellness and impairment of AM in the four groups.

Thirty AD patients, 30 VaD patients, 20 PDD patients and 100 normal subjects of both sexes were recruited after following the inclusion and exclusion criteria. They were administered the Clinical Dementia Rating Scale, Bengali Mental Status Examination, General Health Questionnaire-12, Autobiographical Memory Questionnaire and PGI General well-being Scale. Data were analyzed by Means, SDs, t test, correlations, Analysis of variance (ANOVA) and Sheffe's post hoc tests.

Three dementia groups significantly deviated from normal group in AM and wellness, with semantic memory better preserved than episodic memory. In dementia groups, significant gender differences were evident in recent life section of autobiographical incident at present hospital. In normal group, gender effect was noticed in total score and first school of childhood personal semantic, early adult life personal semantic at wedding, recent life section of autobiographical incident at present hospital and Well Being scale. In dementia groups, total score of childhood personal semantic and early adult life of autobiographical incident at career was associated with wellness. Among normal, association was noted at first school of childhood personal semantic and early adult life autobiographical incident in career.

The autobiographical memory deficit varies according to the differences in brain pathology. This research indicate that AD, VaD, PDD have distinct patterns of autobiographical memory impairment in relation to normal. Impairment of autobiographical memory hampered the sense of identity and general wellness.