

## PSYCHOPATHOLOGICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF ORGANIC MENTAL DISORDERS IN THE ELDERLY

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Mental disorders associated with organic brain diseases represent a group of pathological conditions that develop due to structural and functional abnormalities in brain tissue, regardless of their etiology and pathogenesis. Organic mental disorders occur in approximately 50% of individuals over the age of 60 and in up to 70% of those above 75 years old. In recent decades, the incidence of these disorders has been observed to occur at increasingly younger ages. Advances in diagnostic neuroimaging techniques (CT, MRI, MSCT, etc.) have significantly improved the detection and classification of such conditions.

**Objective.** The aim of this study was to comprehensively examine the clinical and psychopathological characteristics of affective disorders in elderly patients with organic brain pathology and to evaluate their nosological correlations.

**Materials and Methods.** This study was conducted at the Bukhara Branch of the Republican Specialized Scientific-Practical Medical Center for Mental Health. The research sample consisted of 96 patients aged 55 years and older, all diagnosed with organic brain disorders accompanied by affective disturbances (F06).

To analyze the heterogeneity of organic affective disorders, patients were divided into two groups:

- Group 1: 38 patients (47.1%) with organic emotional lability (asthenic syndrome).
- Group 2: 28 patients (53.8%) with organic psychotic disorders.

In Group 1, the distribution by age was as follows:

- 55–65 years: 16 patients (13.8%)
- 66–75 years: 25 patients (41.5%)
- Over 76 years: 17 patients (21.0%)

The mean age was  $50.6 \pm 0.8$  years, with 20 men (26.3%) and 38 women (73.7%). In Group 2, the distribution was: 55–65 years: 10 patients (19.5%) 66–75 years: 15 patients (36.6%) Over 76 years: 13 patients (21.95%)

The mean age was  $50.3 \pm 0.27$  years, with 10 men (24.4%) and 28 women (75.6%).

The duration of illness differed significantly between groups (6.5 vs. 19.9 years).

**Results.** The analysis of psychopathological symptoms revealed pronounced diversity. Cognitive deficits of vascular origin varied depending on the affected vascular territory and exhibited individual clinical manifestations. To assess anxiety levels, the Hospital Anxiety and Depression Scale (HADS) was employed.

Epidemiological studies indicate that depression predisposes to the development of dementia, and when accompanied by affective disturbances, it significantly increases the risk of cognitive decline (Green et al., 2003).

Among patients in Group 1 (post-stroke cases), the following symptoms were observed: Dizziness – 16%, Elevated blood pressure – 8%, Headache – 10%, Fatigability – 13%, .General weakness – 21%. These symptoms were predominantly reported after cerebrovascular events. In Group 2, psychotic features were more pronounced. Patients frequently described delusional experiences, such as: “Someone is trying to influence me from afar; they are communicating with me.”

Additionally:

- 5% exhibited disorientation in time and space
  - 2% showed euphoric states
  - 30% experienced visual hallucinations (e.g., “small people or children moving around the house”)
  - 20% displayed anxious or paranoid ideation in unfamiliar settings, including suspicions like “They are trying to steal my belongings” or “My spouse is being unfaithful.”
- These symptoms demonstrated prominent affective–delusional features.

Conclusion. Significant differences were found in manifestation age (54.8 vs. 39.4 years) and disease duration (6.5 vs. 19.9 years) between the two groups.

- Group 1 was characterized mainly by chronic and recurrent depressive forms.
- Group 2 exhibited more severe, melancholic, and apathetic depressive patterns compared to Group 1.

In elderly patients with organic brain pathology, depressive disorders demonstrated distinct psychopathological structures and clinical dynamics. Moreover, the findings underscore the necessity to differentiate between two types of affective pathology — based on the temporal relationship between the onset of affective symptoms and the development of the organic brain disorder.

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