

**[P5.196] German Validation of the Brief International Cognitive Assessment for Multiple Sclerosis (BICAMS)**

***Iris-Katharina Penner,<sup>1</sup>Patrick Kandziora,<sup>2</sup>Jana Poettgen,<sup>3</sup>Christoph Heesen,<sup>3</sup>Michael Lang,<sup>2</sup>Herbert Schreiber<sup>4</sup>***

***<sup>1</sup>Basel, Switzerland, <sup>2</sup>Ulm, Germany, <sup>3</sup>Hamburg, Germany, <sup>4</sup>Ulm-Donau, Germany.***

Objective: A German validation of BICAMS.

Background: Cognitive impairment in MS negatively impacts patients' quality of life, vocational status and adherence to therapy. Thus, routine assessment to monitor cognitive status is important. Since neuropsychological services are mostly only available in a few specified centers, BICAMS was proposed to facilitate access to a standardized cognitive screening and to allow for international comparability.

Design/Methods: 82 MS patients (mean age 43.5 years; 62 females) and 62 healthy controls (mean age 38.5 years; 46 females) were enrolled, so far. Instead of CVLT-II in the German version of BICAMS, the VLMT was included, since normative data are based on a larger sample with a wider age range. To check test-retest reliability, all subjects were re-assessed after 2-4 weeks.

Results: For patients, means and standard deviations on three BICAMS tests were: SDMT 47.2 (12.2), VLMT learning trials (LT) 52.0 (10.5), BVMT-R LT 23.8 (7.7). For controls: SDMT 53.3 (9.6), VLMT LT 54.5 (9.0), BVMT-R LT 28.2 (6.2). Patients differed significantly from controls on the SDMT and BVMT-R LT ( $p < 0.001$ ) but the VLMT LT group means comparison do not yet reach significance. Percentage of patients scoring below the 1.5 SD of the control data were as follows: SDMT: 26.8%, VLMT: 14.6%, BVMT: 29.3%. In terms of test-retest reliability the following Pearson's correlation coefficients were found for patients and controls, respectively: SDMT: 0.89, 0.87; VLMT LT: 0.75, 0.65; BVMT-R LT: 0.75; 0.59. Criterion related validity will be reported when the control sample is completed.

Conclusions: To date, this German validation study indicates that BICAMS is a valid, acceptable and brief cognitive assessment tool that can be recommended for routine use in Germany to assess patients with MS. The tool is especially helpful in clinical settings where time economy is central and highly specialized neuropsychological personnel is not available.

Category - MS and CNS Inflammatory Disease: Health Services/Outcomes Research

**Session:** P5: Poster Session V: MS and CNS Inflammatory Diseases: MS Disease Course, Activity, Progression, Cognition, and Quality of Life (2:00 PM-6:30 PM)

**Date/Time:** Wednesday, April 22, 2015 - 2:00 pm

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