

Specific Features of Tics and Stereotypies Interview – Exploratory Study on a Semi-Structured Interview to establish the differential diagnosis between tics and stereotypies

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Background:

The comorbidity between stereotypies and tics is common in children and teenagers. The differential diagnosis between tics and stereotypies can be difficult in patients with autism spectrum disorders although it is very important in terms of the treatment course. In order to assess the difference between tics and stereotypies in this population it was designed a semi-structured interview to clarify the specific features of tics and stereotypies and support the differential diagnosis.

Methods:

The design of the interview was supported by the most recent literature concerning the specific features of tics and stereotypies in order to establish the difference between both movements. The interview was applied to 5 patients with autism spectrum disorder, level 1, and Tourette Syndrome. All patients were diagnosed with Autism Diagnostic Interview – Revised and Autism Diagnostic Observation Scale and Yale Global Tic Severity Scale.

Results and Conclusions:

The results show that the interview can identify the presence of tics and stereotypies in patients with autism spectrum disorders and Tourette Syndrome. This suggests that the interview is sensitive to the presence of tics and stereotypies and can distinguish between both. It will be necessary to extend the number of patients on this sample and also apply the interview to patients with the only diagnosis of autism spectrum disorders, tic disorders and to a control group.