

**Effect of head injury and influencing factors on cognitive function of patients attending Neurosurgical Clinic Teaching Hospital, Jaffna.**

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**Introduction** Head injury causes significant impairment in Cognitive function. Cognitive impairment is characterized by deficits in speed of information processing, attention, memory, executive functioning, and higher level of emotional stress. Due to the cognitive impairment, social deprivations are common after head injury and it leads to poor functional outcome.

**Objective** To assess the effect of head injury and influencing factors on cognitive function among patients who had head injury attending neurosurgical clinic at Teaching hospital Jaffna

**Methodology** A descriptive cross-sectional hospital based study was conducted among 121 participants attending neurosurgical clinic at Teaching hospital Jaffna. An interview administered questionnaire was used as a study instrument. Montreal Cognitive Assessment (MoCA) scale was used for detecting mild cognitive dysfunction. SPSS version 25 was used to analyze the data. Ethical approval was obtained from Ethical Review Committee, Faculty of Medicine, University of Jaffna.

**Result** Among the participants, majority of them were male(58.7%, n=71) with age varied from 18 years to 84 years and most of them were Hindus(87.6%). None of them were living alone. Almost all the participants were on follow up at 3 to 6 months post injury (93.4%). Road Traffic Accidents (49.6%) considered as major cause of head injury. Almost all the participants had mild Cognitive impairment (95.9%, Mean-15.88, SD-6.561). Post injury employment, occurrence of headache and hypothyroidism were significantly influenced on cognitive functions of the participants.

**Conclusion** This study revealed that the majority of the participants had mild cognitive impairment, Therefore early and adequate attention should be paid to provide interventions, and rehabilitations. Thereby improve the functional outcome and productivity and reduce the social and economic burden of the patients after head injury.