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COGNITIVE FUNCTIONING IN YOUNG, PROFESSIONALLY ACTIVE MEN AFTER CABG OPERATION

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Introduction: The development of operation techniques and care of the patients treated with coronary artery bypass graft (CABG) has an influence on the reduction of mortality, the frequency of post-operation myocardial infarctions and other important side-effects. Still a certain remaining problem are cognitive dysfunctions.

Aims: The purpose of this study was to the analysis of selected cognitive functions before the operation and shortly after the operation.

Methods: 120 men aged below 65 were invited to the study. Finally 50 patients were recruited to the study, who underwent CABG with extra-corporeal circulation. The examined group consisted of 50 men with a mean age of 54.4±5.6. 36% of the examined patients had a myocardial infraction in the past, 76% suffered from hypertension, 60% from diabetes. The cognitive assessment was done with a standardized Vienna Test System (VTS) battery. Following cognitive functions were examined visuo-spatial short-term memory (CORSI test), precise and continuous attention (COGNITRON), psychomotor speed and co-ordination (MLS test).

Results: After the operation the visuo-spatial memory and continuous attention improved. The learning abilities did not change, and the psychomotor performance decreased. Statistically significant positive correlations were found referring to visuo-spatial memory and continuous attention before and after the operation.

Conclusions: Coronary artery bypass graft (CABG) with the use of extra-corporeal circulation in young men with no comorbid diseases aged below 65 has no significant impact on such cognitive functions like visuo-spatial memory, continuous attention and learning abilities. However the decrease of psychomotor performance was observed.