Asthma's Effect on Brain Connectivity and Cognitive Decline

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Abstract

To look at how asthma sufferers' Dynamic Voxel Mirror Homotopy Connections (dVMHC) between the brain hemispheres alter. This study demonstrated that patients with BA had less capacity to control their emotions and less efficiency while processing visual and cognitive information than patients in the HC group. The dVMHC analysis may be utilized to predict airway hyper responsiveness, inflammatory development, and dyspnea as well as to sensitively measure oxygen saturation, changes in visual function, and attention bias brought on by emotional problems in asthma patients.

Keywords: Ischemia injury • Depression

Introduction

More than 300 million people suffer from poor health due to asthma, which is a prevalent and frequent ailment among the populace in developing nations. Dynamic changes in each stage and heterogeneity at the outset of the illness characterize the clinical indicators of asthma. Patients with asthma who do not receive enough oxygen to the brain may experience structural abnormalities. Because of asthma, the brain is continuously oxygen-depleted, which can harm brain tissue and lead to white matter demyelination due to ischemia injury. Chronic intermittent hypoxia can shorten the dendrites and synaptic proteins of hippocampus neurons by breaking DNA, depleting ATP, disrupting mitochondria, and producing free radicals. In patients with asthma, Von Leupoldt discovered that PAG activity rose and insular cortex activity decreased, which may indicate the neural process.

Additionally, asthmatics are more prone to experience emotional reactions and experience long-term stress. According to certain research, persistent stress may significantly contribute to delayed anaphylaxis by stimulating ACC and the insular system. Patients with asthma are twice as likely to experience anxiety and sadness as healthy individuals. This could be due to tryptophan hydroxylase's reduced biological activity. According to Wang, individuals with asthma and depression had smaller grey matter volumes in the right superior temporal gyrus, the right middle frontal gyrus, and the bilateral anterior cuneate lobes than patients with uncomplicated asthma.

Zhang discovered that asthma patients with depression had a greater functional link between the left middle temporal gyrus and the left ventral forebrain island than asthma patients without depression or healthy controls. One of the major therapies for asthma sufferers is glucocorticoids.The hippocampus and amygdala volumes reduced in individuals who underwent long-term glucocorticoid therapy, according to Brown's findings. The extent of the decline was closely correlated with the time spent receiving glucocorticoids.

The progress of the disease may also be impacted by functional abnormalities in the cerebrum region. For instance, in individuals with asthma, the limbic lobe and Anterior Cingulate Gyrus (ACC) directly or indirectly increase the release of stress hormones by producing neuropeptides, enhancing TH2 inflammation of the respiratory tract. Through the calculation of local brain activity and neural network function Degree Centrality (DC) and Functional Connectivity (FC), a previous rsfMRI study found that both the regional activity of the default mode network and the functional connectivity of the sensorimotor and visual networks were abnormal in patients with asthma. These separate alterations support the hypothesis that the degree of airway obstruction influences the changes in the gyrus DC.

In asthma patients, the sensorimotor network changes are associated with changes in respiratory amplitude. Additionally, Li discovered alterations in DC values in several brain areas of asthmatic patients. The distinction is that in asthma patients, in addition to the aforementioned regions, there are aberrant functional connections in the cortex-basal ganglia and frontal-parietal networks. Additionally, Zhang discovered that there was a reduction in the FC between the left vAI and the bilateral parietal lobes, even though the parietal lobe is in charge of processing and perceiving signals associated with dyspnea.

The FC between vAI and ACC on the left rose at the same period, and the more active the ACC, the more severe the airway inflammation was. In addition, individuals with depressed asthma had higher FC between left vAI and left MTG, whereas mood problems were linked to higher MTG response, according to this study.

Both adults and children with asthma have cognitive impairment, according to research. Changes in the anatomy of the brain are assumed to be the source of such cognitive impairment in asthma sufferers. Carlson et al. discovered through a retrospective investigation that hippocampus volume shrinkage, which is strongly connected with cognitive impairment, occurs in asthmatic patients. Declarative memory tests may not be successfully completed by asthma patients due to low levels of hippocampus NAA, a marker of neuronal density and N-acetyl aspartate integrity. Additionally, prolonged intermittent hypoxia damages the hippocampus, which can impair cognitive function by reducing spatial learning. Repeated asthma episodes and inadequate control of the condition might impair cognitive function and cause sleep difficulties.

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