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A CAREFUL EXAMINATION OF KORSAKOFF'S SYNDROME BY MRI

Dr. Prakash kulithungan[1]*, Dr. Revanth V[2]

[1*]Assistant Professor, Sri lakshminarayana Institute of medical sciences, Puducherry, India.
[2]Assistant Professor, Sri lakshminarayana Institute of medical sciences, Puducherry, India.

ABSTRACT

Since the seventeenth century, researchers have studied the cognitive effects of KS, leading to a better knowledge of both forgetfulness and dementia. In addition to executive dysfunction Despite the fact that emotional and volitional disorders are frequent in KS6, –9, they are rarely investigated. However, the lack of a duration or reversibility condition in this concept had crucial ramifications that aren't often recognized today. Victor and colleagues identified KS in any patient with memory deficits, whether permanent or temporary, after the initial WE phase of disorientation had gone. According to a very recent study, alcoholics who have recently had their toxins removed may suffer mental retardation as long as the temporary effects of myelination decline are delayed and myelination reversed. According to all studies, memory problems in alcoholics who do not have TD and do not get it disappears after a few weeks of stopping drinking. Because KS is an ongoing condition after WE, it can be considered a brain injury obtained. After treating WE by replacing thiamine with and beyond the recovery period, medical interventions should be limited to improving existing skills or suppressing symptoms that interfere with normal functioning. If we want to improve our knowledge of the disease, we must rekindle interest in postmortem histological analysis of brain tissue from KS patients, particularly with respect to local function or association of degenerative symptoms in specific thalamic nuclei. The underlying neuropathology of KS cannot be accurately observed in the absence of suitable neuroimaging methods.

Keywords:- Korsakoff's Syndrome , Cognitive,WE.

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INTRODUCTION

Korsakoff's syndrome (KS) is a recurring sickness in Wernicke encephalopathy (WE) patients who were not treated with thiamine replacement medication promptly and appropriately. The most prominent symptom of KS is global amnesia, which may be fairly severe. When paired with other cognitive and behavioral impairments, which are more frequent in more severe forms of KS, this might have far-reaching implications in everyday life. [1] The degree, pattern, and type of anterograde episodic memory loss in KS have greatly helped to clarify concepts of improving human memory, as well as recognizing that memory is not a single process. In addition, the KS study revealed the importance of diencephalic areas in memory function, enabling researchers to differentiate between different brain structures and neural circuits that support various mnemonic processes. [2]

Since the seventeenth century, researchers have studied the cognitive effects of KS, leading to a better knowledge of both forgetfulness and dementia. in addition to executive dysfunction Despite the fact that emotional and volitional disorders are frequent in KS6, –9, they are rarely investigated [3]. Moreover, no research on histopathological lesions supporting KS has been published since 2000, despite the fact that some of the

Corresponding Author**: Dr. Prakash kulithungan**

most important and interesting questions remain unanswered. [4] There is no universally agreed-upon definition of KS, and no diagnostic method is universally agreed upon. [5] According to DSM-5, "a major neurocognitive disorder caused by alcohol, is a form of amnestic confabulatory." [6]

Because KS is not caused by alcohol, this categorization is incorrect. Furthermore, this categorization obfuscates the substantial relationship between KS and WE, making it hard to diagnose or characterise KS in non-alcoholics. In ICD-10, alcohol and non-alcoholic KS are classified, although they are divided into groups. 15 The use of these ICD-10 interventions is compounded by the fact that non-alcoholic KS is classified as a mental disorder (F04), whereas alcoholic KS is classified as a drug-induced mood disorder (F05) (F10.26)). As a result, one of the purposes of this study was to provide a comprehensive description of KS and suggestions for future diagnostic procedures. Definition, epidemiology, and diagnosis There is no widely known definition of KS in the literature, and the widely accepted theories have been developed over time. As a result, there have been a host of topics that have never been fully explored or addressed. All definitions of the syndrome in the earlier literature are simply cross-sectional in nature, with no necessity for its longevity. KS is [7] an abnormal mental state in which memory and learning are impacted out of all proportion to other cognitive skills in an otherwise aware and responsive patient, according to Victor et al. 16,32It is still recognised in modern reviews2,12,23, owing to its excellent depiction of the defining traits of KS. Kopelman et al. recently added "resulting from nutritional depletion, ie, thiamine deficiency" to this description, which is a minor but significant change. [8]

However, the lack of a duration or reversibility condition in this concept had crucial ramifications that aren't often recognised today. After the first phase of WE confusion was over, Victor and his colleagues isolated KS from any patient with memory impairment, whether chronic or transient. Patients can be given this diagnosis if their memory problems completely disappear after a few weeks (at the same time even within 9 days). This rapid memory loss is now probably considered part of the WE rescue phase or the simultaneous release of alcohol encephalopathy (AE). Memory loss must be permanent to be diagnosed with KS nowadays; 34 in most instances, only some improvement is feasible. Although Victor et al's definition has stayed unchanged, the concept of KS has developed, prompting care when relying on the findings of previous studies. Another issue with prior classifications is that they only focus on severe memory loss, but KS is a condition characterised by a wide spectrum of cognitive and behavioural symptoms.

There is no insurmountable obstacle to distinguishing between the effects of thiamine deficiency (TD) and ethanol neurotoxicity (EN). Apart from this, new diagnoses and umbrella terms have changed, such as "alcohol-related dementia" 36–38 or "alcohol-related mental illness." 39 These current “alcohol-related” theories and categories undermine the clinical identification of KS and make scientific research difficult. There is no valid reason why a reliable explanation and diagnostic KS should be more difficult to construct than the meanings, definitions or conditions of Alzheimer's (AD). The clinical diagnosis of AD is not easier than the diagnosis of KS [9]. In both cases, memory problems are often accompanied by other mental and behavioral problems. WE, on the other hand, are easier to diagnose neuropathological than AD. Difficulties such as Alzheimer's disease and normal aging and classification of AD from other causes of dementia such as Lewy's dementia or vascular dementia have never prevented researchers and physicians from studying Alzheimer's-specific biomarker symptoms and defining clinical approaches to the disease [10].

A detailed description of KS and the effective and efficient diagnostic criteria for KS may be based on information obtained over the past few decades. "KS is a residual syndrome caused by severe thiamine deficiency and occurs after incomplete recovery in Wernicke encephalopathy, especially in the case of alcohol abuse and malnutrition, which is characterized by an abnormal attitude in which episodic memory is involved in all other cognitive functions in a patient. vigilant and responsive, whose attitude is unknown, "according to the KS website. "Inactivity and other mental or behavioral disorders (other than amnesia) may not be present in mild forms of KS, especially non-alcoholic KS." [11] It is premature to require the presence of these symptoms in all cases of KS as long as there is no consensus on the severity and length of the memory matter required to detect KS.

The etiology and pathophysiology of the disease:

KS is almost certainly always preceded by WE, despite the fact that several authors have questioned this. The fact that clinical diagnosis of WE are highly difficult and, as a result, generally overlooked, contributes to the uncertainty surrounding this issue. 20–22 Wernicke encephalopathy is a form of nervous system disorder that affects the brain. Overall, WE are diagnosed histopathological and is determined following a post-mortem study of the brain [12]. WE have long been associated with malnutrition, but it has also been documented in patients with hyperemesis gravidarum,

malnutrition, and a variety of gastrointestinal diseases, as well as later in adults with AIDS and after bariatric surgery. WE can be successfully treated by injecting large amounts of thiamine into a patient's blood or intravenously 5 If this happens immediately, within hours after the onset of encephalopathy, complete recovery is almost guaranteed. Even if only a few days have passed since the thiamine has been replaced, complete recovery is still possible. However, if treatment is delayed for a long time, the patient may die or recover slowly, and KS and nutritional cerebellar degeneration (NCD) are common symptoms that persist in both cases. [13]

Ongoing damage to many areas of the brain around the third and fourth ventricles, especially in diencephalon51, occurs in patients with KS, while chronic damage to the cerebellum, especially the vermis, occurs in NCD patients. This is in line with the fact that KS patients only perform a slight recovery.

Neuropathology:

Between 1892 and 2000, approximately 45 articles on KS neuropathology were published, which led to a series of results in which each new discovery did not raise doubts in the field of previously discovered structures. The addition of new structures to the list of wounds involved in the development of KS may be the most important factor in the development of new structures as histopathological research has advanced to a higher level of complexity, as it has greatly improved WE survival. and K patients since the widespread availability of treatment instead of thiamine began in the 1960s. Researchers from NSWTRC26 recently published a series of studies on anatomical clinical association based on histology (see also the section "Wernicke encephalopathy"). These books are the most advanced histopathology studies of KS that have ever been published. [14]

Despite this, existing perceptions regarding KS are considered complex or contradictory 12.65, especially when it comes to the question of whether a critical memory loss is found in the dorsomedial or anterior thalamic nuclei. In one of the NSWTRC studies, Harding et al. provided convincing evidence of an important role for the anterior thalamic nuclei in regulating motor behavior. Previous studies which failed to detect histological damage to the anterior thalamic nuclei, were successfully argued as ineffective because they did not use neutral stereological techniques. Patients with severe damage to the mediodorsal thalamic nuclei but no injuries to the anterior thalamic nuclei after being diagnosed with no significant memory impairment during their lifetime, according to the researchers. The anterior nuclei are the site of critical lesions in KS-related memory dysfunction, according to evolving evidence from anatomical studies (where these nuclei are identified as part of the limbic-diencephalic memory circuit, such as the hippocampus), animal studies, and vascular in the thalamus. According to a recent study, the central nuclei are connected and repeatedly connected to the prefrontal cortex and the amygdala, and is thought to be a member of the amygdala extended system. 17

Neuroimaging:

During the acute phase of WE, significant alterations (increased signal intensity in one or more of the structures illustrated and specified in; are detected in almost half of the patients.

The presence of these abnormalities on MRI validates the clinical diagnosis of WE, and their presence confirms the clinical diagnosis of KS when it is suspected (see also the "Definition, diagnosis, and epidemiology" section for additional information). Alcoholic drinks make a contribution

There's no denying that chronic alcoholism has always been the most important component in determining the conditions under which WE and KS may appear in a particular setting. Two of the three instances first recorded by Wernicke9, as well as two-thirds (30/46) of the Korsakoff6–8 patients, were alcoholics at the time of their first reports. According to studies, the proportion of alcoholics among patients who have WE or KS has risen to at least 90% in recent cohorts. [15] However, it is still debatable whether EN is required for the occurrence of WE or if EN is required in any manner for the development of KS after WE.

The storage of thiamine in the liver is reduced in acute alcoholic liver disease, and alcohol may affect thiamine use. Because of the high calorie content of alcohol, which suppresses hunger and promotes malnutrition, the combustion of alcohol necessitates the production of extra thiamine pyrophosphate (a co-enzyme in energy-bound processes), and the absorption of thiamine is impaired by 4 percent, severe alcohol abuse is known to contribute to the development of WE
The continuity idea has been ruled out.

Both the original and revised forms of the continuity hypothesis are dismissed as a result of the evidence presented in the preceding two sections of this chapter. According to the continuity hypothesis, non-KS alcoholics and alcoholics with Parkinson's disease have cognitive impairments that range from minor to severe, and there is a positive link between cognitive function and drinking history as a result of EN. Pitel and colleagues64 proposed a revised continuity theory in which AL and KS have "episodic memory continuity" while AL, KS, and those with alcohol dementia have "working memory continuity" (where "AL" refers to simple alcoholics).

DISCUSSION:

This concept, on the other hand, is only applicable in certain circumstances. After a period of abstinence from alcoholic drinks, uncomplicated alcoholics may exhibit cognitive deficits, but they will lessen and finally vanish. According to the newest studies, recently detoxed alcoholics may face cognitive impairments for as long as the transient effects of demyelination linger and re-myelination has not been completed. According to all studies, memory difficulties in alcoholics who do not have TD and do not acquire WE disappear after a few weeks of quitting drinking. Executive and other sorts of cognitive difficulties might take anything from a few weeks to many months to recover from. There is also no conclusive proof that EN is the sole cause of "alcohol dementia." Until now, all patients who were given this diagnosis had residual symptoms after WE, had Alzheimer's disease or another form of dementia, or had other forms of alcohol-related co-occurring brain damage (pellagra, traumatic brain injury, pontine or extrapontine myelinolysis, Marchiafava–Bignami disease, and hepatic encephalopathy). On a regular basis, memory loss occurs.

The only symptom of KS that has been properly examined over the last 125 years is memory loss. Although early investigations were baffled by apparent discrepancies in KS patients' memory function, these conflicts were reconciled in the 1970s and 1980s, after the discovery of different memory systems that may be affected separately by disease processes.

When it comes to declarative memory, severe memory impairment is a basic hallmark of Kinesiosomiasis. Within this declarative memory domain, both episodic memory, which is concerned with directly remembered subjectively experienced events that are particular to time and location, and semantic memory, which is concerned with facts, are impacted. In each of these subdomains, the anterograde memory processes are frequently more severely damaged than the retrograde memory processes. There are pharmacological and cognitive rehabilitative options available.

Because it is a persisting condition after WE, KS might be considered a form of acquired brain injury. After treating WE with thiamine replacement and going through a convalescence period, pharmacological interventions must be confined to either improving existing skills or suppressing symptoms that are interfering with normal functioning. There is some evidence that these therapies are useful in people who have had traumatic brain damage. 182 In contrast, there is no indication that pharmaceutical therapy has any therapeutic effect in the case of KS. KS patients were treated with clonidine, fluvoxamine, reboxetine, or rivastigmine, among other drugs, in more than a dozen case studies and eight double-blind trials. Conclusions are explored, as well as future directions.

We summarised the current level of knowledge on KS in a concise manner in our narrative review. In numerous key areas, it varies dramatically from previous recent KS and WE investigations. [16] To put it another way, we believe that alcohol abuse's contribution to the development of WE and KS is limited to creating the conditions in which TD is most prone to develop, as well as significant patient and doctor delays. Alcohol usage causes both TD and malnutrition, and alcoholics' living environments and socioeconomic status are to blame for extended treatment delays, favouring the shift from WE to KS. However, at this time, we have not been able to find compelling evidence that EN had a substantial role in the development of WE or the progression of WE to KS.

CONCLUSION:

Although alcoholism appears to have had a substantial role in the genesis of WE and KS, it appears to be completely coincidental. According to animal research and contemporary studies on the development of WE and KS in non-alcoholic individuals, TD is responsible for a considerable number of instances of WE and KS.

Furthermore, a delay in treatment is the most common cause of WE progressing to KS. We also discovered that the continuity theory, in either its original or amended version, had little evidence to back it up. Only when KS is fully and completely characterized, and when it can be reliably detected and diagnosed, is it possible to investigate the whole spectrum of remaining symptoms following WE. As a result, a globally recognized definition (for which we prepared a proposal in the section "Definition, diagnosis, and epidemiology"), as well as reliable diagnostic criteria, are plainly necessary. Furthermore, diverse knowledge concerning the genesis, symptoms, treatment, and course of the many kinds of collateral brain damage in alcoholics should be combined into a complete "taxonomy of alcohol-related brain damage," which would include all of the currently known information. If we want to enhance our knowledge of the illness, we must reinvigorate interest in postmortem histological analysis of brain tissue from KS patients, particularly in terms of the functional localization or association of symptoms with damage in specific thalamic nuclei. The underlying neuropathology of KS cannot be accurately observed in the absence of suitable neuroimaging methods.

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