E. RÓDENAS, M. ARNEDO & M. TRIVIÑO. Neuropsychological Profile of Confabulators. Towards a sensitive assessment.

Objective: Confabulations have been frequently associated with deficits in memory and executive functions, although the results are not consistent in the literature. This study aimed to define the profile of neuropsychological impairment in a group of confabulators, as well as to explore how a cognitive treatment can selectively improve it.

Participants and Methods: Eight patients took part in this study, receiving a neuropsychological treatment that reduced their confabulations effectively. A comprehensive neuropsychological evaluation were administered both pre and post-treatment. The functions assessed were: number of confabulations on Dalla Barba's Provoked Confabulation Interview (Dalla Barba, 1999), sustained and selective attention, verbal and visual memory, and executive functions.

Results: The neuropsychological profile in the pre-treatment evaluation was mainly characterized by a deficit in selective attention, auditory memory (learning, recall and recognition), presence of confabulations in the recall of a visual complex figure and planning. A T-Student analysis was performed comparing the results in the pre and post-treatment assessment, which showed a significant improvement specifically in selective attention ($p=0.002$) and false positives in recognition of auditory material ($p=0.004$). An improvement was also observed in the intrusions in free and cued recall of auditory material, confabulations in recall of visual material and planning (all $ps<0.03$). Finally, a correlation analysis showed a significant positive correlation between false positives and number of confabulations ($r=0.80$), and a negative one between false positives and selective attention ($r= -72$).

Conclusions: This study provides new evidence about the neuropsychological indicators which seems to be related to confabulations, highlighting selective attention and discriminability memory processes. This profile could provide a sensitive assessment allowing an early detection of confabulators, as well as the design of more effective interventions.

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