



# Características neuropsicológicas de la memoria tras cirugía cardíaca con circulación extracorpórea [

Cardiocentro Ernesto Che Guevara,  
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text (article)

Analítica

**Introduction:** Cardiovascular diseases are the leading cause of death in developed countries and one of the therapeutic strategies is surgery with the use of extracorporeal circulation, which can cause undesirable effects on the neurologic system. **Objective:** To characterize neuropsychological functioning of the memory process in patients who have undergone surgery with extracorporeal circulation. **Method:** An exploratory-descriptive study in 25 patients operated at Cardiocentro Ernesto Che Guevara in the period from January to March 2012 was performed. The assessment was based on the multivariate test memory, Digits subtest of Wechsler scale, review of the clinical history and a semistructured interview to the patient. **Results:** There were limitations regarding the direct fixation of memory trace and retention process based on repetition, with specific manifestation in verbal and numerical retention. Regarding immediate memory, the quality of associations based on visual stimulation was evidenced and affectations presented in recalling, which is consistent with the difficulty in fixing and retention. The existence of alterations in declarative memory was also demonstrated. **Conclusions:** Male patients, between 50 and 70 years of age, with a low educational level were predominant. Difficulties in the direct fixation of memory traces were found, as well as failures in immediate recalling of stimuli offered and even after making good associations, and impaired declarative memory. This indicates the existence of neuropsychological limitations in the functional systems associated with declarative and non-declarative, voluntary and involuntary memory, in patients undergoing cardiopulmonary bypass

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