

## Abstract

### Psychiatric Changes in Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Patients and their Relatives

Gleb Levitsky\*

\*Gleb Levitsky clinic, Russia

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#### ABSTRACT

One hundred eighteen amyotrophic lateral (ALS) sclerosis patient and 97 their family members were examined by psychiatrists. Assessment was performed by Hamilton depression score (HAM-D) for a ll and frontotemporal dementia score for patients. Psychiatric changes were revealed in 101 (85%) of ALS patients and in 51 (52.5 %) of family members that were significantly lower than in ALS patients,  $p < 0.05$ ). The average score by HAM-D in ALS patients with situation-mediated depression comprised.  $17 \pm 4$ , with situation mediated anxiety disorder it was  $15 \pm 5$ , and with situation mediated anxiety and depression disorder it was  $21 \pm 6$  ( $p > 0.05$  between groups). The average degree by HAM-D in family members comprised  $12 \pm 4$ , with situation-mediated anxiety disorder it was  $22 \pm 5$  ( $p < 0.05$  in comparison with the latter estimate), and with situation-mediated anxiety and depression disorder it was  $16 \pm 6$ . The spectrum of situation mediated psychiatric impairments were equally represented with subtle predominance of situation-mediated depression. Rare cases of coincidence of ALS with major psychiatric disorders were described. In 33 of ALS patients (28%) frontotemporal cognitive changes were seen, that reached the level of dementia in 4.2% of cases. Among family members only situation-mediated psychiatric disorders were revealed with marked predominance of anxiety disorder (28%,  $p < 0.05$ ). Habitual intoxications were seen in 49 ALS patients (41.5%) and 80 family members (82.4%) ( $p < 0.05$ ). High prevalence of anxiety disorder leads to denial in cooperation with professional doctors (73-76%), denial of aggressive treatments (74.5%), appeal to scammers and irrelevant expenses (29.6% случаев). Dual patronage of ALS families is recommended by psychiatrists and narcologists in individual cases, what may increase number of life-sustaining treatments in ALS and the increase of life quality in ALS patients and family members.

**Keywords:** Psychiatric disorders, Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, Frontotemporal dysfunction, Habitual intoxications

**Corresponding author:** Gleb Levitsky, Gleb Levitsky clinic, Russia, E-mail: alsrus@gmail.com

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