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# EMOCIONES BÁSICAS EN DEMENCIA TIPO ALZHEIMER

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## Resumen

Hargrave et al, (2002) & Laveneu et al, (2005) hallaron que los pacientes con Demencia tipo Alzheimer (DTA) tienen más dificultades que sujetos sanos para reconocer emociones, en particular el miedo y la tristeza (Henry et al, 2008). Spotoletini et al, (2008) plantean que el déficit de reconocimiento de miedo aparece muy precozmente y podría constituir un marcador profético. El objetivo es estudiar si los pacientes con DTA presentan alteraciones en el reconocimiento facial de emociones básicas. Se evaluaron 16 pacientes con diagnóstico de demencia tipo Alzheimer, comparado con un Grupo Control. Se administraron 3 pruebas de reconocimiento facial de emociones básicas con 60 fotografías del POFA (Ekman y Friesen, 1976) (Tabernero & Politis 2011). Se hallaron diferencias estadísticamente significativas en las 3 tareas con el grupo control (Reconocimiento U de Mann-Whitney=14,500; p=0,000; selección U de Mann-W=41,000; p=0,001; apareamiento U de Mann-W=41,000; p=0,001) de emociones. Los pacientes tuvieron mayores alteraciones en el reconocimiento de tristeza (25,71%), miedo (22,76%) y Asco (18,06%). Estos resultados confirman los hallazgos previos que indican alteraciones en el procesamiento facial emocional en pacientes con DTA. Por otro lado nuestros hallazgos coinciden con los autores que encontraron en esta patología mayor alteración en reconocer tristeza y miedo.

## Palabras clave

Emoción, Demencia tipo Alzheimer, Tristeza, Miedo

## Abstract

### BASIC EMOTIONS IN DEMENTIA OF ALZHEIMER'S TYPE

Hargrave et al, (2002) & Laveneu et al, (2005) found that patients to recognize emotions, especially fear and sadness (Henry et al, 2008). Spotoletini et al, (2008) suggest that recognition of fear seems appear very early and could be a predictive marker. The aim is to study whether patients with DAT alterations in facial recognition basic emotions. We evaluated 16 patients with a diagnosis of dementia of Alzheimer's type compared to a control group. 3 tests were administered face recognition with 60 basic emotions POFA photographs (Ekman and Friesen, 1976) (Tabernero & Politis, 2011). Statistically significant differences were found in the 3 tasks with the control group (Recognition Mann-Whitney U = 14,500P = 0.000; Choise Mann-W U = 41,000, p = 0.001; Mating Mann-w = 41,000, P = 0.001). Patients had greater variation in the recognition of sadness (25.71%), fear (22.76%) and disgust (18.06%). These results confirm the findings of previous studies indicating alterations in facial emotional processing in patients with DAT. On the other hand our findings agree with the authors that this pathology found in greater alteration in recognizing sadness and fear.

## Key words

Emotion, Dementia of Alzheimer's type, Fear, Sadness

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