

## INNOVATIVE DEVELOPMENTS AND RESEARCH IN EDUCATION

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## UNNOTICED CONSTRICTION OF THE INTERNAL CAROTID ARTERY

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Purpose of the Study: This study aimed to evaluate the clinical-neurological and dopplerographic correlation related to atherosclerosis in patients with asymptomatic carotid artery stenosis.

Methods: Seventy-two patients with asymptomatic stenosis of the internal carotid arteries (stenosis <50%) were studied alongside 20 volunteers without atherosclerosis symptoms, using duplex scanning of head and neck arteries. Patients were categorized into two groups: Group 1-A (32 patients) underwent carotid endarterectomy (KEAE), while Group 1-B (40 patients) received conservative treatment. Cognitive function was assessed using the MMSE scale.

Results: The average age was 62±8 years for Group 1-A and 55±9 years for Group 1-B. Initial MMSE scores indicated mild dementia in both groups, with Group 1-A showing significant improvement over time. Cognitive disorders were found in 85% of patients initially, but improved with treatment. Multispiral computed tomography angiography revealed various intracranial stenoses, predominantly in the carotid arteries, with bilateral narrowing observed in most patients.

Conclusions: By the sixth month, MMSE scores for Group 1-A reached normal levels ( $26.7\pm0.38$ ), while Group 1-B scored  $26.2\pm0.45$ . Restenosis occurred in 12.5% of patients post-surgery, but no occlusions were observed.