

COGNITIVE FUNCTIONING NEGATIVELY CORRELATED WITH SEVERITY OF TRAUMA EXPERIENCES, AND SYMPTOMS SEVERITY OF PTSD, DEPRESSIVENESS AND ANXIETY IN BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA WAR VETERANS AFTER 1992-1995 WAR

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Aim: Our aim was to investigate is there association between level of cognitive functioning and severity of PTSD symptoms, depression symptoms, and anxiety symptoms.

Subjects and methods: We tested 104 war veterans on presence of PTSD, depression symptoms, anxiety, and level of cognitive functioning. We used Harvard trauma questionnaire (HTQ) for assessment of severity of PTSD symptoms, Hopkins Check Scale (SBCL 25) for severity of depressiveness and anxiety, mini mental status (MINI) for severity of cognitive impairment.

Results: Mean age of tested subjects was 50.6 (SD=5.2) years. The score of the cognitive functioning negatively correlated to severity of trauma experiences (Pearson's $r = -0.310$, $p = 0.001$), to PTSD symptom severity and depressiveness (Pearson's $r = -0.649$, $p < 0.001$; $r = -0.606$, $p < 0.001$, respectively). Besides that the score of cognitive functioning negatively correlated with presented anxiety (Pearson's $r = -0.566$, $p < 0.001$).

Conclusion: Trauma experiences severity, PTSD symptoms severity, depressiveness and anxiety symptoms severity decreased cognitive functioning in war veterans seventeen years after war 1992-1995 ended in Bosnia-Herzegovina.