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Cognitive deficits associated with sleep apnea syndrome: a proposed neuropsychological test battery.

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Numerous studies have assessed a wide range of cognitive deficits associated with obstructive sleep apnea syndrome (OSAS). The comparison of these various results, however, is hampered by the fact that different studies employ different neuropsychological tests, even when assessing the same function. The aim of this paper is to present a standardized neuropsychological test battery for the evaluation of OSAS patients. Following a description of the general characteristics of OSAS, we review the main cognitive functions reported as being impaired in OSAS patients. These include general intellectual functioning, attentional functioning, memory and learning abilities, executive functions, and motor performance. Based on this review, we propose a test battery designed to cover these cognitive processes while taking into account the time constraints present in most research and clinical centers. In addition to providing a comprehensive neuropsychological evaluation of OSAS patients, the proposed test battery should facilitate the comparison of results from different laboratories.

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