

Special Issue

Cognitive Impairment and Gait Disorders in Older Adults

Message from the Guest Editors

Older individuals can age either normally or pathologically. Individuals with pathological ageing have numerous comorbidities, leading to polypharmacy and contributing to frailty. Among these comorbidities, major neurocognitive disorders (MNCDS) and balance and gait disorders (BGDs), which lead to falls, are two real public health problems. MNCDS are the primary cause of loss of autonomy (ability to govern oneself) in older adults, while BGDs are a major factor in the loss of independence, and falls are the most common cause of accidental death in this population. Moreover, MNCDS and BGDs are often associated. This is explained by the impaired judgment; attention, memory and/or praxis disorders; and damage to the nerve centers governing balance and gait that occur in individuals with MNCDS. The motoric cognitive risk syndrome, associated with slow gait and subjective memory complaints without objective cognitive and functional disorders, illustrates this association. We therefore propose this Special Issue in an effort to better understand the relationship between MNCDS and BGDs in the elderly, with the ultimate goal of improving care and quality of life.

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