

# Few skull radiation patients show cognitive impairment

8 August 2017



absence of impairment by TICS.

"Approximately one-third of patients had ambiguous results by TICS assessment, for whom more rigorous testing may be warranted," the authors write. "Moderate-to-severe levels of patient-reported memory complaints on the MDASI-HN module may have utility as a screening tool for cognitive dysfunction in this population."

One author disclosed financial ties to General Electric Healthcare and Elekta AB.

**More information:** [Abstract](#)  
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(HealthDay)—The majority of patients undergoing skull base irradiation for cancer have no detectable cognitive impairment, but about one-third may have ambiguous results with a self-reporting tool, according to a study published online Aug. 1 in *Head & Neck*.

Chase C. Hansen, M.D., from the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, and colleagues quantified [cognitive symptoms](#) and objective cognitive dysfunction in 122 [patients](#) irradiated for skull base [cancer](#). The researchers utilized the Telephone Interview for Cognitive Status (TICS) and the MD Anderson Symptom Inventory-Head and Neck module (MDASI-HN).

The researchers found that the majority (63 percent) had no frank detectable cognitive impairment by TICS. Frank impairment was seen in 6 percent of patients. The MDASI<sub>memory</sub> cut-off point of ?5 was associated with detectable cognitive impairment by TICS, yet no MDASI<sub>memory</sub> threshold was associated with unambiguous

APA citation: Few skull radiation patients show cognitive impairment (2017, August 8) retrieved 20 April 2021 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2017-08-skull-patients-cognitive-impairment.html>

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