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**Scientific Abstract**

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**Influence Of Depression On Cognition And Dual Task Performance in Elderly-A Pilot Study**

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**Objective:** According to WHO, with aging, the risk of developing psychological and cognitive disorders, like depression and mild cognitive impairment increases. Also, it has been observed that the ability to attend and perform two tasks at the same time (dual task performance) declines in elderly people. The objective of the present study is to assess the relationship between dual task performance and cognition in elderly people with depression.

**Methodology:** 30 randomly selected elderly people were divided into two groups, using the Geriatric Depression Scale, one group with depression and one without. Cognition and dual task performance were assessed in both the groups using Montreal Cognitive Assessment scale (MOCA), Timed up and go test (TUG), TUG (cognitive) and TUG (manual) and the scores and subjected to statistical analysis.

**Results & Conclusion:** When analysed using the student unpaired t- test, the TUG, TUG (cognitive), TUG (manual) scores did not show any significant difference between the groups ( $p \geq 0.05$ ), whereas the MOCA scores showed a significant difference between the groups ( $p \leq 0.05$ ), those without depression having better cognitive status than with those with depression. It was concluded that depression had an effect on cognition and dual task performance in elderly people.

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