



# Visuospatial attention deficit in patients with mild and moderate dementia of Alzheimer's type

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## Abstract

The study investigated the impaired shifting of visuospatial attention in mild to moderate Alzheimer's disease using Attention Network Test. Further, the study aimed to compare the attentional performance in DAT patients with age-matched healthy controls. The orienting attention was assessed by manipulating the validity of spatial cues in order to measure the orienting operations of disengaging and moving with engaging in an attentional network test which comprised of flanker compatibility and spatial cued task. The reaction time, performance accuracy and error rate were recorded. The result showed that mild DAT patient performed better in comparison to moderate DAT patient when the target appeared at the valid location as compared to invalid location. The same trend was observed in mild DAT and HC group in which performance at the validly cued location was faster in comparison to invalidly cued location. The error data revealed that the DAT patients committed more errors than healthy control during target under valid cued as compared to invalid cued condition. Thus, a greater cost was demonstrated in processing uncued locations. In sum, the present study showed the visuospatial deficits observed in DAT patients cause impairment in the ability to read, difficulty in visuospatial orientation, motion detection and agnosia. The study raises an opportunity to corroborate attentional network functioning with functional brain imaging to understand the efficiency of attentional network in an Alzheimer's brain. The study has a limitation for illiterate patients as computerized attentional test limits its ability to literate patients only.

## Biography

Pooja Rai has been a researcher of doctoral in philosophy of Psychology from Department of Psychology, Banaras Hindu University on psychodiagnositics and neuropsychology of Alzheimer's disease.

