THE NEUROPSYCHOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT IN TAEKWONDO. A CASE STUDY

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Abstract. The purpose of the case study presented consists of concretely investigating the neuropsychological development in middle childhood period, in order to make a diagnosis regarding the implications of taekwondo practice on the neuropsychological functions. The subject of the case study is a child, male gender, aged 11 years on the date of the examination. To achieve the purpose proposed, it was used the NEPSY test battery: A Developmental Neuropsychological Assessment for the Romanian population. There were used tests from four domains of neuropsychological development, with the following subtests: from the domain of Attention/Executive Functions, the “Tower” subtest; from the domain of Language, the subtests: Phonological Processing; Speeded Naming; Comprehension of Instructions; Visuomotor Precision; from the domain of Visuospatial Processing, the subtests: Design Copying; Arrows; Block Construction; Route Finding; from the domain of Memory and Learning: Memory for Faces; Memory for Names; List Memory. The subject’s results after assessment place him above the expected level or above the expected level in all four domains of neuropsychological development. We consider that the results of this study may represent a hypothesis which can be tested through further research. At the same time, we consider that the selection of children for the taekwondo practice should also be based on their neuropsychological assessment, together with the taekwondo-specific tests.

Keywords: neuropsychological assessment; taekwondo; middle childhood