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The effects of PAT, EDR and HRV biofeedback training on cognitive performances in healthy high-school children

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A b s t r a c t: 45 participants (mean age 16.84±0.903) were randomly allocated into three groups depending on the biofeedback method applied (Peak Achievement Training - PAT, Heart Rate Variability - HRV, Electro Dermal Resistance - EDR) and an additional control group. Trail Making Test form A (TMT-A) and form B (TMT-B) and Verbal Span Assessment (WMS-R) were applied prior and after the experiment. T-test for dependant groups revealed significant improvement of the level of concentration ($t=3.22$, $p<0.05$) in the participants treated with PAT, compared to HRV group ($t=2.14$, $p>0.05$), and EDR group ($t=0.26$, $p>0.05$) who did not show improvement. The results suggest that PAT can be successfully used for improving the concentration and attention ($t=8.302$, $p<0.05$; $t=5.137$, $p<0.05$) as well as the Short Term Memory Span ($t=3.521$, $p<0.05$; $t=2.168$, $p<0.05$).

Key words: Biofeedback, Neurofeedback, Concentration, Cognitive Performance.