Posters

Anxiety and personality structure among Malay students

Y Asgari[1], SM Noah[2]

[1]Deakin University, Melbourne, Australia; and [2]University Putra Malaysia, Malaysia

The purpose of this study was to investigate the relationship between personality traits and anxiety among Malay students. As culture and personality are related, the effect of culture in relation to anxiety and personality traits was also considered. Eysenck Personality Questionnaire (1983) was used to assess personality traits and State-Trait Anxiety Inventory (form Y) (1983) was used to assess anxiety trait and state. A total of 263 undergraduate students (120 women and 143 men) at University Putra Malaysia were administered Malay version of the State-Trait Anxiety Inventory and the Eysenck Personality Questionnaire. Two separate multiple regression analyses were used to explore the relationship between personality traits and test anxiety. The study results suggested that personality traits neuroticism and, to a lesser extent, extraversion were instrumental in explaining the variance in test anxiety. The most consistent finding was the relationship between neuroticism and test anxiety, suggesting that students with higher levels of this personality trait are more vulnerable to anxiety.

Investigation of the Repeatable Battery for the Assessment of Neuropsychological Status scores in an Australian community sample of brain donors with schizophrenia

L Azizi[1], C Harper[2], T Garrick[1,2]

[1]Neuroscience Institute of Schizophrenia and Allied Disorders (NISAD); and
[2]Discipline of Pathology, The University of Sydney, Australia

Aim: The following study investigated cognitive functioning, using the Repeatable Battery for the Assessment of Neuropsychological Status (RBANS), in a community-based sample of people with schizophrenia, who are prepared to donate their brain to medical research. Index and total scale scores were examined for prototypical patterns of cognitive dysfunction.
Background: Existing neuropsychological research shows pervasive cognitive deficits in schizophrenia (Fioravanti et al. Neuropsychology Review 2005; 15:73–95), but there is limited research in Australian community samples that investigates performance on the RBANS: a concise cognitive battery comprising immediate and delayed memory, visuospatial ability, attention and language domains.
Methods: Forty participants with a history of schizophrenia from the Neuroscience Institute of Schizophrenia and Allied Disorders 'Gift of Hope' Brain Donor Program were included in the study. The RBANS was completed as part of the initial enrollment process into the program. Scores were compared with normative data from the RBANS manual for people with schizophrenia and healthy controls.
Results: Preliminary results indicated that group performance across the various cognitive domains was better in the current sample, than in the schizophrenia sample represented in the RBANS manual. Analysis showed higher scores in areas of memory and attention. In fact, all index scores appeared within normal limits for this community sample, compared with the established RBANS normative reference group.
Conclusions: Cognitive performance on the RBANS may not indicate significant impairment in this community sample of people with schizophrenia. Further analyses will be conducted, comparing performance with an Australian sample without mental illness, matched for age and education.

Elucidating semantic disorganization from word comprehension: do patients with schizophrenia and bipolar disorder show differential processing of nouns, verbs and adjectives?

R Batty, S Rossell

Mental Health Research Institute (MHRI), Melbourne, Australia

Background: One of the primary cognitive abnormalities in schizophrenia is a semantic memory deficit, which is predicted to underpin disturbances in language processing. Similarly, memory deficits have been acknowledged as a consequence of mood extremes, such as in depression and bipolar disorder. The precise impact of semantic memory deficits on word comprehension, particularly in terms of processing across grammatical categories, has not been adequately investigated. Furthermore, previous semantic assessments have predominantly been designed in a way that most healthy controls perform at ceiling, questioning the accuracy of observed differences between patient and control groups.