ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Relationship between long-chain polyunsaturated fatty acids at birth and motor function at 7 years of age

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Background/Objectives: Long-chain polyunsaturated fatty acids (LCPUFA) rapidly accumulate in the central nervous system (CNS) during the perinatal CNS growth spurt. This particularly concerns arachidonic acid (AA: 20:4n-6) and docosahexaenoic acid (DHA: 22:6n-3), which are thought to play important roles in CNS development and function. The aim of this study was to investigate the relation between motor function at 7 years of age and the levels of AA and DHA in umbilical venous plasma phospholipids, representing the prenatal availability of these fatty acids, and in plasma phospholipids sampled at age 7 years.

Subjects/Methods: Motor function was assessed both quantitatively (the ability to perform a movement) and qualitatively (how the movement is performed) with the Maastricht Motor Test (MMT) in 306 children, born at term, at 7 years of age as part of a follow-up study.

Results: Backward stepwise multiple regression analyses revealed a significant positive relation between umbilical plasma DHA concentrations (but not plasma DHA levels at 7 years) and the MMT total and quality score, corrected for the covariables gender, cognitive performance, gestational age and age at measurement ($P = 0.13, P = 0.01$ and $P = 0.14$, $P = 0.01$, respectively). The contributions of DHA and AA (both at birth and at 7 years of age) to quantitative movement scores were not significant.

Conclusions: Our results suggest that prenatal DHA availability, which can be influenced by maternal dietary DHA intake during pregnancy, can have an effect on quality of movement in later life.

Keywords: arachidonic acid; docosahexaenoic acid; motor function; movement quality; Maastricht Motor Test; LCPUFA

Introduction

The central nervous system (CNS) contains high amounts of long-chain polyunsaturated fatty acids (LCPUFA), especially arachidonic acid (AA: 20:4n-6) and docosahexaenoic acid (DHA: 22:6n-3) (Satrty, 1985). These fatty acids can either be supplied by nutrition or synthesized from their (essential) precursors linoleic acid (LA: 18:2n-6) or a-linolenic acid (ALA: 18:3n-3), respectively (Innis, 1991). During the last trimester of gestation and in the first postnatal year, the CNS undergoes a growth spurt, so an adequate supply of LCPUFA to the child during this period will be important for optimal CNS development (Innis, 1991; Relsbick, 1996).

Several studies have shown the importance of postnatal dietary LCPUFA for the development of term infants (Makinodds et al., 1995; Birch et al., 1998; Willatts et al., 1998), although the evidence is not unequivocal (Auestad et al., 2001; Simmer, 2001).

It can be hypothesized that prenatal LCPUFA supply also exerts an influence on CNS development, because rapid CNS growth already starts prenatally. The absolute accretion rates of the n-3 fatty acids are even greater in the prenatal period compared with the postnatal period (Clandinin et al., 1980a, b).

Indeed, maternal LCPUFA supplementation during pregnancy seems to enhance several aspects of CNS function. Helland et al. (2003) found that supplementation with very long-chain n-3 PUFAs during pregnancy and lactation lead...
Comparative Sensitivity of Outcome Variables of a Software-based Behavioral Sleep Resistance Task

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Abstract: Unintentional sleep and performance impairment due to extended wakefulness are often the cause of traffic and work accidents. Therefore, large-scale screening instruments assessing the ability to resist falling asleep during monotonous tasks are needed. The current widespread computer use in industrial and home settings offers the possibility to use software-based
Wat met te laag opgeleiden in Vlaanderen?

Een prospectieve studie met inbreng van fit, werkuitkomsten, en werkplekken

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Bevordert een intrinsieke arbeidsoriëntatie de bevlogenheid en arbeidstevredenheid?

Joris Van Ruysseveldt, Hans De Witte en Peter Smulders

Geaccepteerd door Gedrag & Organisatie

Samenvatting

This article attends to perceived job (in)security and its impact on emotional exhaustion, turnover intentions, and organizational commitment. These important work outcomes were explored both separately and in relation to employees’ extrinsic work orientation. Using a research model based upon the Job Demands-Resources model, a large (N = 4,589) and heterogeneous sample of Dutch workers was tested. As hypothesized, the perception of future job (in)security demonstrated to be a potent predictor of processes that influenced the work outcomes. Finally, individuals’ extrinsic work orientation moderated the relation between perceived job (in)security and emotional exhaustion, but not turnover intentions and organizational commitment. These findings lead to essential theoretical and practical recommendations.

Key terms: Job Demands-Resources model, Employment, Work orientations, Work outcomes.
Bevordert een intrinsieke arbeidsoriëntatie de bevlogenheid en arbeidstevredenheid?

Joris Van Ruysseveldt, Hans De Witte en Peter Smulders

Geaccepteerd door Gedrag&Organisatie

Samenvatting

Speelt een intrinsieke arbeidsoriëntatie een rol als persoonlijke hulpbron in de relatie tussen werkeisen en hulpbronnen enerzijds en arbeidstevredenheid en bevlogenheid anderzijds? Dit is onderzocht in een omvangrijke, representatieve steekproef van de Nederlandse beroepsbevolking (N = 4009). Op grond van veronderstellingen afgeleid uit het Job Demands-Resources model
The Boosting Impact of Intrinsic Work Values on Job Resources in the Realm of the Job Demands-Resources Model

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Een verkennende studie

Joris Van Ruysseveldt en John Taverniers

Geaccepteerd door Tijdschrift voor Arbeidsvraagstukken

Samenvatting
Ongeveer 10% van de Vlaamse beroepsbevolking beoordeelt zichzelf als te laag opgeleid voor het werk dat men doet. In deze verkennende studie wordt de werksituatie van deze groep vergeleken met die van de juist en de te hoog opgeleiden. Zoals verondersteld op basis van het P-E fitmodel en het JD-R model ervaren de te laag opgeleiden een significant hoger niveau van werkdruk en werk-thuis-interferentie, en daarmee samenhangend, een significant hoger niveau van psychische vermoeidheid. Leer mogelijkheden in het werk blijken niet in staat het stressverhoogende effect van
Levenslang leren en opleiding

Wat met werkplekleren?

Een studie naar arbeidstevredenheid van te laag versus goed geschoolde werknemers met inbreng van werkdruk en werkplekleren


Echter, kan men er dan uit gaan dat meer werkplekleren – of leren in, door, en tijdens het werk – sowieso goed is voor iedere werknemer? Dit verslag geeft een overzicht van de belangrijkste bevindingen en formuleert een antwoord vanuit het perspectief van de ‘educatie-job fit’, of de match tussen educatie en vereiste competenties voor de functie.

Situering

Werkplekleren is niet meer weg te denken in een dynamisch en geglobaliseerd economisch bestel. In een toestand van opeenvolgende reorganisaties en snel wijzigende technologieën kunnen managers er via werkplekleren voor zorgen dat de werknemers ‘bij’ blijven. Anderzijds zijn bijwerken de enige manier om het kwalificatieniveau van te laag opgeleide werknemers te verhogen. Leren op en voor het werk wordt daardoor vrij algemeen beschouwd als een stimulerend aspect van de werkbeleving en als een essentieel element van ‘good job design’. Een voorbeeld hiervan is het Job Demands-Resources model. Onderzoek binnen dit model wees onder meer uit dat werkgerelateerd leren een essentiële hulpbron is die negatieve effecten van tal van werkeisen – zoals te hoge werkdruk – buftert (Van Ruysssevelt, Taverniers, & Smulders, 2009).

Onderzoeksnotitie: De voorspelling van werkstress in Nederland en Vlaanderen

Joris Van Ruysseveldt, John Taverniers en Peter Smulders*

We passen een onderzoeksmodel ter verklaring van werkstress, gebaseerd op het Job Demands-Resources (JD-R) model, toe op vier omvangrijke steekproeven uit de Nederlandse (2002 en 2004) en Vlaamse (2004 en 2007) beroepsbevolking. Het doel is om - aan de hand van de vergelijking van de analyseresultaten op de vier datasets - te bepalen in welke mate de gevonden hoofd- en interactie-effecten contextonafhankelijk zijn en dus generaliseerbaar over meetjaar en gebied. De resultaten laten zien dat steeds dezelfde significante hoofdeffecten in de datasets gevonden worden. Werkeisen hebben dus een positief, en hulpbronnen een negatief hoofdeffect op werkstress, zowel in de twee meetjaren als in de twee gebieden Nederland en Vlaanderen. Maar er is geen empirische steun gevonden voor het optreden van contextonafhankelijke interactie-effecten. De interacties zijn dus wel afhankelijk van meetjaar en gebied. De implicatie voor de interventiepraktijk is dat men niet als vanzelfsprekend mag aannemen dat de hulpbronnen het effect van hoge werkeisen op werkstress dempen. In het terugdringen van stressproblemen is dus de meeste winst te verwachten van een neerwaartse bijstelling van de werkdruk...
Procedural and interpersonal fairness moderate the relationship between outcome fairness and acceptance of merit pay

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An organizational field study (*N* = 257) investigated employees’ acceptance of a new merit pay system as involving an assessment of whether merit pay can make their earnings more fair, compared to their earnings in the current, seniority-based pay system. We expected that improvement of unfair earnings, and consequently acceptance of merit pay, is considered likely when existing procedures that produce these earnings are unfair, because merit pay improves such procedures. We also expected improvement of unfair earnings, and increased merit pay acceptance, to be likely when employees anticipate fair performance evaluation in a new system, as indicated by fair interpersonal treatment by their supervisor. Results showed that procedural and interpersonal fairness in the existing pay system indeed moderated the relationship between fairness of current outcomes and merit pay acceptance as predicted. Implications for the introduction of merit pay in organizations and for our understanding of the different roles of procedural and interpersonal fairness in outcome evaluations are discussed.
RUNNING HEAD: POWER, FAIRNESS, AND SELF-ESTEEM

How Power and Trust Explain Procedural Fairness Effects on Self-Esteem

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When Do Procedural Fairness and Outcome Fairness Interact to Influence Employees' Work Attitudes and Behaviors?: The Moderating Effect of Uncertainty

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Identifying Persons at Risk for PTSD After Trauma with TSQ in The Netherlands

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Abstract In The Netherlands about 80% of the population experience a traumatic event while about 14% develop post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Considering this high prevalence the prevention or early treatment of post-traumatic stress is important from a health as well as cost-benefit perspective. The aim of this study was to examine whether we could identify subjects at risk of developing PTSD. We included 100 Dutch victims of different civil traumas that contacted the Victim Support Foundation. The trauma screening questionnaire (TSQ), was used as a screening tool. The results show that a cut-off score of 7 on the TSQ correctly identified most subjects with PTSD. We found a moderate positive correlation between PTSD and the severity of complaints. We also found a significant relationship between the TSQ and depression symptoms. This study indicates that the Dutch version of the TSQ is a useful instrument for identifying future cases of PTSD.

Keywords Post traumatic stress disorder · Trauma · Screening

Introduction

In The Netherlands about 80% of the population experience a traumatic event while about 14% develop post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD; Olff and de Vries 2004, Nov.). The core symptoms of PTSD are persistent re-experiencing of the traumatic event, persistent avoidance of stimuli associated with the trauma, numbing of general responsiveness and persistent symptoms of increased arousal. These symptoms are associated with clinically significant distress and impairment in social, occupational or other important areas of functioning (American Psychiatric Association 2000). PTSD is a chronic and disabling disorder (Olff and de Vries 2004, Nov.). The national comorbidity study (NSC; Kessler et al. 1995) reported an average recovery period of 36 months for people who had professional treatment and 64 months for people without such help. Patients with PTSD often suffer from comorbid disorders such as depression, other anxiety disorders, and alcohol and drugs abuse (Brewin et al. 2000; Breslau 2001; Foa et al. 2006; Kessler et al. 1995; Norris et al. 2002; Zayfert et al. 2002). PTSD is also associated with increased health care cost to the society (Walker et al. 2003). Considering the high prevalence early detection of subjects at risk may help to prevent PTSD through early interventions (Sijbrands et al. 2007).

The screening instruments for identifying victims at risk for PTSD that have been developed, were mostly based on risk factors. However, as risk factors are not consistent across studies and may be sample-dependent, Brewin et al. (2000) argued that individual symptoms might be a more effective tool for screening. In his study, Brewin (2005) reviewed 14 screening instruments for PTSD and concluded that the overall efficiency of all screening instruments was good. The 10-item TSQ (Brewin et al. 2002) performed particularly well. In the present study, the Dutch version of the TSQ was validated. In order to assess the specificity of the instrument, we not only assessed how well the TSQ predicted PTSD, but also how well it
"Could this happen to me?": Threat-related state orientation increases position identification with victims of random, "senseless" violence

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Abstract

Two experiments examined the role of threat-related action-state orientation in how observers become psychologically involved with victims of violence. Observing incidents of random, "senseless" violence is uniquely threatening to observers because they violate just world beliefs and appear like they could happen to anyone. Because strong threat-related state-oriented individuals are less effective in down-regulating such threats to the self, they should perceive stronger self-concerned position identification (i.e., "this could happen to me") when confronted with random, "senseless" violence. In contrast, no such effects should occur for observers' person identification (i.e., their other concerned empathy for the victim). The results of two experiments supported these ideas and ruled out potential alternative explanations based on individuals' just world beliefs, need for cognition, and their attribution strategies. Discussion included the importance of threat-related self-regulation processes with regard to self- and other-concerned mechanisms through which observers come to care for victims of violence.

Why do observers sometimes identify with strangers who befall a violent fate? For example, observers may intend to join protest marches against the occurrence of random, "senseless" violence (Lodewijkx, Kerstens, & Van Zomeren, 2006). Incidents of random, "senseless" violence involve situations where the victim cannot be blamed for his or her violent fate. Unlike situations in which victim blaming is possible, incidents of random, "senseless" violence appear like they could happen to anyone (including oneself; Lerner, Miller, & Holmes, 1976), a representation that implicates observers in events because observers cannot blame the victim for his or her fate to protect their just world beliefs, and hence need to cope with this potential threat to the self.

Recent theory and research on this issue (Lodewijkx, De Kwaadsteniet, & Nijstad, 2005; Lodewijkx, Wildschut, Nijstad, Savenije, & Smit, 2001; Van Zomeren & Lodewijkx, 2005, 2008; for a sociological perspective see Van den Brink, 2001) has proposed that two distinct, yet related, psychological mechanisms help observers cope with being confronted with victims of random, "senseless" violence. The first mechanism is based in a concern for the position of the victim if one may find oneself in (which is referred to as self-concerned position identification), whereas the second mechanism is based in a concern for the suffering of the victim as a person (referred to as other-concerned person identification). I integrate this line of thought with a different line of theory and research suggesting that individuals differ in their ability to downregulate threats to the self (e.g., Kuhl, 1994a, 2000, 2001; see also Lazarus, 1991). Specifically, Kuhl (2000, 2001) proposed individual differences in threat-related action-state orientation. State-oriented individuals typically engage in less effective self-regulation in response to threatening situations than action-oriented individuals (see also Kuhl & Koo, 2004). Indeed, action-oriented individuals flexibly disengage from situational threats, whereas state-oriented individuals...
Sanctions and moral judgments: The moderating effect of sanction severity and trust in authority

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Abstract

In order to induce people to follow rules, sanctions are often introduced. In this paper we argue for the importance of studying the positive influence of sanctioning systems on people’s moral convictions regarding the rule adoration and of studying factors that moderate this influence. In three experiments we tested the influence of sanction severity and showed that severe sanctions evoke stronger moral judgments with regard to rule-breaking behavior than mild sanctions. This was particularly the case when authorities is high rather than low. Implications of these findings are discussed. Also, a framework is proposed to understand the possible circumstances that determine whether sanctions either increase or decrease moral judgments.

Many social situations are regulated by rules and punishments. For example, fines are imposed for exceeding the maximum speed level to encourage safe driving behavior and imposed for free riding in public transport to ensure people to pay their fee. Punishments are thus a means to induce people to do what is considered morally “right.” From an economic point of view, sanctions on undesired behavior deter people from performing undesired behavior and encourage desired behavior simply because such a sanction makes the undesired behavior less attractive. Various experimental studies have indeed shown that sanctioning systems can successfully increase pro-social behavior (Caldwell, 1977; Loukopoulos, Fujii, & Garling, 2002; Fehr & Gächter, 2002; McCusker & Carnevale, 1995; Van Vugt & De Cremer, 2001; Wit & Wilke, 1990; Yamagishi, 1986, 1992). However, field research has shown that moral norms more strongly influence normative behavior than formal sanctions (e.g., Paternoster & Simpson, 1996; e.g., Wenzel, 2004). The research current paper attempts to shed light on the influence of sanction severity on moral norms regarding the same behavior.

Sanctions and Moral Norms

Recently, both psychologists and economists argued that sanctions can have counterproductive effects (Fehr & Falk, 1997; Gneezy & Rustichini, 2000; Mulder, Van Dijk, De Cremer, & Wilke, 2006; Tenbruck & Messick, 1999). In fact, sanctions may exert negative effects on psychological mechanisms underlying behavior. For example, Gneezy and Rustichini’s research (2000) suggests that the installation of a sanctioning system can create the opposite effect. Therefore, the question arises how to design sanctioning systems that can be effective in promoting social behavior.

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DISCUSSIE

Cultuur doet niets, mensen wel

Cultuur en lichaam in de gezondheidszorg

Samenvatting  Rob van Dijk schreef in 2004 een kritisch artikel over het gebruik van het statisch cultuurbegrip in de gezondheidszorg. Volgens hem komt dit begrip de beleidsmakers misschien goed uit, voor de praktijk van de interculturele hulpverlening is het echter ronduit problematisch. Beter zou het zijn om uit te gaan van een dynamisch cultuurbegrip. In deze bijdrage onderschrijven we Van Dijks kritiek op het statische cultuurbegrip maar we laten tegelijk zien waarom zijn alternatief geen soelaas biedt. Zowel het statische als het dynamische cultuurbegrip geven een klassieke, verkeerde voorstelling van hoe cultuur en individu zich tot elkaar verhouden. Wij presenteren een heel ander perspectief op die verhouding, waarin wordt afgerekend met het idee van cultuur als kracht of factor. Consequent staan handelende mensen centraal, als belichaamde individuen die met elkaar dwingend vormgeven aan gedragss patronen. We bespreken de consequenties van dit perspectief voor onze opstelling ten aanzien van anderen én onszelf.

< Theo Verheggen, Paul Voestermans >
Acting fairly to be the boss
Procedural justice as a tool to affirm power relationships with subordinates
DAVID DE CREMER AND MARIUS VAN DIJKE

The issue of social justice is a dominating theme in our daily lives. In fact, concerns about the value of justice in our social lives go back to ancient moral philosophers such as Plato and Socrates (Rawls 1971). Indeed, the concept of social justice is related to humanitarian and ethical standards that describe how we should act and treat others (e.g., Miller 2001). Social justice can take many forms (e.g., fair distributions of outcomes, respectful treatment, fair communication of decisions and so forth), but in the past two decades considerable attention has been devoted to the issue of procedural justice. This focus in attention was primarily motivated by Lind and Tyler’s (1988: 1) influential book in which they argued that fairness judgments (and related responses) are influenced more strongly by procedures than by outcomes, as such emphasizing the importance of procedures as a core element of social justice. Procedural justice can be defined as the fairness of procedures enacted by an authority when making allocation decisions (i.e. granting voice or not, being accurate and consistent in evaluations and so forth; see Leventhal 1980 for an overview of different procedural rules) and the respectful treatment associated with it (De Cremer et al. 2004).

To date, an impressive amount of literature exists pointing out the importance of procedural justice in promoting a wide variety of psychological outcomes relevant to the functioning of our social lives (see De Cremer and Tyler 2005; Greenberg and Colquitt 2005; Van den Bos and Lind 2002, for overviews). For instance, when people believe they are being fairly treated by authorities such as organizational managers or judges, they are more willing to accept decisions, obey laws, and exert extra effort to achieve organization goals (i.e. organization citizenship behavior; Moorman 1991). The belief that one has been treated unfairly prompts negative effect, antisocial behaviors such as revenge and theft (for recent meta-analyses, see Cohen-Charash and Spector...
Shorter communication

Tell me more: Can a memory test reduce analogue traumatic intrusions?

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ABSTRACT

Information processing theories of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) state that intrusive images emerge due to a lack of integration of perceptual trauma representations in autobiographical memory. To test this hypothesis experimentally, participants were shown an aversive film to elicit intrusive images. After viewing, they received a recognition test for just one part of the film. The test contained neutrally formulated items to rehearse information from the film. Participants reported intrusive images for the film in an intrusion diary during one week after viewing. In line with expectations, the number of intrusive images decreased only for the part of the film for which the recognition test was given. Furthermore, deliberate cued-recall memory after one week was selectively enhanced for the film part that was in the recognition test a week before. The findings provide new evidence supporting information processing models of PTSD and have potential implications for early interventions after trauma.

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Introduction

Although several studies have investigated the role of peri-traumatic processing in intrusion development, post-trauma processing has received less attention. However, experimentally investigating post-traumatic processing is important because it relates to current clinical practice where treatment starts after a traumatic event has occurred. The present study investigated whether intrusive images from viewing an aversive film can be reduced by giving a neutral, verbal recognition memory test immediately post-film aimed to help structure verbal memory.

Intrusive images can be defined as mental pictures (and other sensations) that come into consciousness unwanted and uncontrollably. Intrusive images are a common form of re-experiencing a traumatic event (Specsens, Ehlers, Hackmann, Roths, & Clark, 2007) and are a core feature of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD; American Psychiatric Association, 4th ed., text revision, 2000). Recent information processing theories of PTSD (Brewin, Dalgleish, & Joseph, 1996; Ehlers & Clark, 2000) converge on the idea that intrusive images develop due to impaired information processing during the traumatic event (Holmes & Bourne, 2008). Normally, there is a balance between perceptual and verbal conceptual information processing, leading to memory representations that incorporate perceptual features of an event within a conceptual framework. However, under extreme stress, the balance shifts towards perceptual processing, leading to memory representations with perceptual features but relatively lacking a conceptual framework. This lack prevents the representation from being integrated within autobiographical memory, making the perceptual memory representation harder to recall deliberately and more prone to intrude into consciousness involuntarily. PTSD specific models (i.e., Brewin et al., 1996; Ehlers & Clark, 2000) build on existing theories of “normal” autobiographical memory (e.g., Conway, 1996; Conway & Pleydell-Pearce, 2000) to specify trauma-specific memory processes.

Several experimental studies support an information processing account of PTSD. For example, it has been found that blocking the perceptual processing of an aversive film decreased subsequent intrusive images of the film (Brewin & Saunders, 2001; Holmes, Brewin, & Hennessy, 2004; Stuart, Holmes, & Brewin, 2006). Conversely, interfering with verbal conceptual processing during the encoding of an aversive film increased intrusive images (Holmes et al., 2004). Furthermore, individuals with a perceptual processing style developed more intrusive images from an aversive film compared to individuals with a conceptual processing style (Halligan, Clark, & Ehlers, 2002). For a review, see Holmes and Bourne (2008).

Most studies have been on information processing during an aversive event with little experimental research investigating intrusion development post-event (Butler, Wells, & Dewick, 1995; Wells & Papageorgiou, 1995). Direct efforts to enhance conceptual post-event memory integration in order to reduce intrusive images
Social cognition and neurocognition as independent domains in psychosis

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Abstract

Patients with psychosis display alterations in social cognition as well as in the realm of neurocognition. It is unclear, however, to what degree these cognitive domains represent two separate dimensions of liability or the pleiotropic expression of a single deficit. The purpose of the present study was to investigate (i) to what extent alterations in social cognition represent an independent area of vulnerability to psychosis, separate from neurocognitive deficits and (ii) whether social cognition is one construct or can be divided into several subcomponents. Five social cognition and three neurocognitive tasks were completed by 186 participants with different levels of vulnerability for psychosis: 44 patients with psychotic disorder; 47 subjects at familial risk; 41 subjects at psychometric risk and 54 control subjects. The social cognition tasks covered important basic subcomponents of social cognition, i.e. mentalisation (or theory of mind), data gathering bias (jumping to conclusions), source monitoring and attribution style. Neurocognitive tasks assessed speed of information processing, inhibition, cognitive shifting and strategy-driven retrieval from semantic memory. The results of factor analysis suggested that neurocognition and social cognition are two separate areas of vulnerability in psychosis. Furthermore, the social cognition measures lacked significant overlap, suggesting a multidimensional construct. Cognitive liabilities to psychosis are manifold, and include key processes underlying basic person–environment interactions in daily life, independent of cognition quantified by neuropsychological tests.

Keywords: Social cognition; Neurocognition; Psychosis; Factor analysis

1. Introduction

Individuals with psychosis not only display neurocognitive deficits, but also experience alterations in the processing of social information. Alterations in areas of social cognition, including processing of emotions, social perception, mentalisation and social knowledge,
Employees' Perception of Job (In)Security and its Impact on Essential Work Outcomes

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PSYCHOTIC REACTIVITY IN BORDERLINE PERSONALITY DISORDER

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Het vernogen van
Impliciete Zelfwaardering bij Kinderen
Middels Evaluatieve Conditionering

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Heeft een Depressieve Sollicitant Minder Kans op een Baan? Effecten van een Depressief Verleden op Persoonsbeoordeling, Emotionele Reacties en Aanname-Intentie

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De Invloed van Temporele en Sociale Vergelijkingen op het Psychologisch Welbevinden van Verpleeghuisbewoners

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The Montgomery-Asberg Depression Rating Scale and the Cornell Scale for Depression in Dementia: A Validation Study With Patients Exhibiting Early-Onset Dementia

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Objective: To investigate some validity measures of Montgomery-Asberg Depression Rating Scale (MADRS) and Cornell Scale for Depression in Dementia (CSDD) in patients with early-onset dementia (EOD). Design: Cross-sectional design. Setting: Nursing home. Participants: A sample of 63 inpatients with EOD. Measurements: Participants were assessed for the presence of clinical depression using the Provisional Diagnostic Criteria for Depression in Alzheimer Disease. Caregivers were administered the MADRS and CSDD, and two subscales from the Neuropsychiatric Inventory (NPI). Results: Depressed patients had higher scores on 6 of the 10 MADRS items and on 3 of the 19 CSDD items than nondepressed patients. Receiver operating characteristic curve analysis revealed a larger area under the curve for MADRS (0.87) than for CSDD (0.76), the difference was significant (p = 0.044). A CSDD optimal cutoff score of "5/6" yielded a sensitivity of 0.833 and a specificity of 0.567. A MADRS cutoff score of "19/20" yielded the biggest sum of sensitivity (0.750) and specificity (0.843). A MADRS score of "14/15" with almost the same sum of sensitivity and specificity had a higher sum of sensitivity and a negative predictive value than "19/20." Both scales correlated with the NPI subscales depression/dysphoria (MADRS: r_s = 0.70; CSDD: r_s = 0.62) and apathy/indifference (MADRS: r_s = 0.59; CSDD: r_s = 0.50). Conclusion: The MADRS and CSDD performed well in distinguishing depressed from nondepressed EOD patients and showed good congruent validity. The scales may be used to assess depressive symptoms in EOD. The MADRS intensity grades may be used for development or refinement of depression scales in (early onset) dementia. (Am J Geriatr Psychiatry 2009; 17:56-64)

Key Words: Early-onset dementia, depression, MADRS, CSDD
Apathy and Depressive Mood in Nursing Home Patients With Early-Onset Dementia

Ruslan Leontjevas, MSc, Susan van Hooren, PhD, Wim Waterink, PhD, and Ans Mulders, MD

The study explored whether apathy and depressive mood symptoms (DMS) are related to cognitive and functional features of dementia in 63 nursing home (NH) residents with early-onset dementia (EOD). All EOD residents from one NH (n = 41) and a random sample from another NH were assessed for depressive symptoms (Montgomery Asberg Depression Rating Scale [MADRS]), apathy (Neuropsychiatric Inventory [NPI]), global cognitive functions (Mini-Mental State Examination [MMSE]), activities of daily living (ADL, Minimum Data Set-Resident Assessment Instrument [MDS-RAI]), and overall dementia severity (Global Deterioration Scale [GDS]). DMS were not associated with apathy and dementia severity. Regression analyses adjusted for age, gender, the type of dementia, and DMS revealed that dementia severity measures accounted for 14% (ADL), 13% (GDS), and 9% (MMSE) of the variance in apathy. In line with previous research in older patients, the higher apathy scores were associated with more cognitive and functional problems in EOD.

Keywords: early-onset dementia; apathy; depressive mood; depressive symptoms

Introduction

Noncognitive neuropsychiatric disturbances, such as depression and apathy, which occur in up to 90% of patients with dementia can be seen as central components of dementia, regardless of cause or stage. These provide clues to the underlying pathophysiological processes of dementia, are key determinants of differential diagnosis and prognosis, and are of great importance in patient care. In this regard, acquiring insight into noncognitive disturbances is especially important for dealing with patients with early-onset dementia (EOD, onset before 65 years of age). Early-onset dementia shows a wider differential diagnosis in comparison to late-onset dementia (LOD), noncognitive psychiatric disturbances are highly frequent in EOD, and these disturbances may interfere with or delay EOD diagnosis.

Apathy is the most common noncognitive disturbance in dementia; it is badly tolerated and experienced dramatically by caregivers—even worse than cognitive deterioration. Apathy in dementia is defined as the absence or lack of motivation, feelings, emotion, interest or concern not due to mood disorder, altered level of consciousness, or cognitive impairment. Loss of interest or motivation can be a conspicuous symptom of depression. In this regard, patients with a high level of apathy are likely to meet criteria for the diagnosis of depression even when dysphoric symptoms are absent. Nevertheless, apathy should not be considered a mere symptom of depression because various studies show apathy to be a discrete syndrome in dementia. A recent large longitudinal study by Starkstein et al demonstrated that apathy at baseline was a predictor of depression 1 to 2 years later but that depression was neither necessary nor sufficient to produce apathy. The distinction between apathy and depression is