

Brain Injury Psychiatry Workshop

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Obsessive Compulsive Disorder (OCD)

OCD

- Lack of clarity about emergence of de novo obsessive-compulsive behaviour after TBI
- Although some outlier studies, most show similar low rate to gen population
- Clinically thought different in character, with emergence of compulsive or stereotyped behaviours post-TBI with minimal anxiety perhaps better classified as obsessive compulsive personality

Gould KR, Ponsford JL, Johnston L, et al: The nature, frequency and course of psychiatric disorders in the first year after traumatic brain injury: a prospective study. *Psychol Med* 41(10):2099–2109, 2011

OCD

- Obsessive thoughts, urges or images which the individual tries to suppress, often associated with fears about contamination, are far less common, or intrusive, than compulsive tendencies to maintain order
- Compulsive behaviour after TBI can be a coarsening of pre-accident personality characteristics, such that a person who was always methodical and organised exhibits a more concrete or rigid style of thinking leading to stereotyped behaviour patterns
- Working memory impairment with lack of confidence about whether or not an action (turning off the gas, electrics, etc.) has been carried out, can → checking rituals which then develop as a habit response

OCD

- Figeet et al. reviewed 37 case reports of patients with acquired OCD due to acquired brain injury and suggest that lesions in the cortico-striato-thalamic circuit, parietal and temporal cortex, cerebellum and brainstem may induce compulsivity
- Hoarding behaviour/abnormal “collecting drives”, seems to be associated with an inability to decide what is useful and should be retained
- Post traumatic hoarding behaviours have been associated with mesial prefrontal damage

Figeet M, Wielaard I, Mazaheri A, Denys D: Neurosurgical targets for compulsivity: what can we learn from acquired brain lesions? *Neurosci Biobehav Rev* 37: 328–339, 2013

Anderson SW, Damasio H, Damasio A: A neural basis for collecting behaviour in humans. *Brain* 128: 201–212, 2005