Late Life Anxiety

Professor Nancy Pachana
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Abstract
Late-life anxiety is more prevalent than depression in later life but research and interventions lag behind. An overview of research on diagnosis, assessment and interventions in late life anxiety is presented, along with the development and application of the author's Geriatric Anxiety Inventory. Future directions for research and clinical interventions are discussed.

Neonatal Imitations: Does it Exist?

Professor Virginia Slaughter
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Abstract
Neonatal imitation is a cornerstone in many theoretical accounts of human development, social behaviour and cultural change, yet its existence has been debated for the last 40 years. I will present data from the largest-ever longitudinal study of newborn imitation and a not-yet-published meta-analysis of all available data on the phenomenon. Considering these two sources of evidence, the most plausible conclusion is that neonates do not imitate. This demands re-consideration of the development of imitation and its foundational role in human social life.

Using ‘Occupation’ to Enhance Self-awareness and Functional Outcomes in Brain Injury Rehabilitation

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Abstract
Background and aims: The use of occupation as a therapeutic modality in brain injury rehabilitation is a growing area of research with recent studies demonstrating its value in improving self-awareness and functional performance. The term ‘occupation’ refers to meaningful and purposeful activities that people engage in as a part of daily life. This presentation aims to provide an overview of research evidence evaluating the use of meaningful occupation in brain injury rehabilitation.

Method: A series of studies will be presented using various designs including meta analysis, randomised controlled trial, and single case experimental designs.

Results: The findings taken as a whole provide an emerging body of evidence that engagement in meaningful occupation within the context of a therapy program facilitates the development of self-awareness in people with traumatic brain injury, and more importantly, leads to goal attainment and improved occupational performance.

Conclusions: Key elements of the effective use of occupation as therapy in brain injury rehabilitation include the therapeutic relationship, client-centred goal setting, timely feedback, and a metacognitive skills training approach.

~All are Welcome~