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**The Effective Assessment of high level cognition based communication disorders in traumatic brain injury (TBI).**

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**Keyword:**

Assessment, Intervention or Practice Models

**Scope / Field:**

Physical Health

**Age Group:**

Adults

**Introduction:**

Individuals who sustain mild-moderate TBI frequently encounter cognition based communication disorders, caused by impairments in language and cognitive functions, such as attention, memory, reasoning and perception discrimination. Deficits are often subtle and therefore difficult to detect, however even the most subtle deficit can seriously influence the success with which an individual achieves his or her occupational, personal, and interpersonal goals.

**Objectives:**

This study aimed to develop better means of identifying high level cognition-based communication problems in patients who have TBI.

We related the findings of cognition-based communication deficits to site of brain injury and recovery pattern including Glasgow Coma Scale (GCS) and Post Traumatic Amnesia (PTA).

**Methods:**

Adults aged between 18 and 65 years who had sustained a TBI, and had emerged from post traumatic amnesia were recruited from the acute Trauma and Neurosurgery Units at The Alfred Hospital, Melbourne, Australia.

Two tests were administered; CLQT (Cognitive Linguistic Quick Test) and COGNISTAT within 24 hours of one another. Results in the domains of language, memory and attention were then compared.

**Results:**

Analyses of initial trends from over 100 subjects suggest that the CLQT is a better assessment of high level cognition based communication deficits.

**Conclusion:**

Preliminary data suggests that more cognition based communication deficits will be identified in patients with TBI when a specific cognitive-language assessment is administered compared to a broad based cognitive assessment alone.

**Contribution to the Practice / evidence base of Occupational Therapy:**

The results of this research have the potential to change the way in which patients with TBI are assessed; and improve the identification of high level communication based cognitive deficits in the acute setting. The findings will be disseminated to Speech Pathology and Occupational Therapy colleagues working with trauma and neurosurgery patients to improve the identification of higher level cognition based communication deficits across the state.