

Memory uncertainty in OCD patients

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Ethical review	Approved WMO
Status	Recruitment stopped
Health condition type	Anxiety disorders and symptoms
Study type	Interventional

Summary

ID

NL-OMON30591

Source

ToetsingOnline

Brief title

memory uncertainty OCD

Condition

- Anxiety disorders and symptoms

Synonym

obsessive-compulsive disorder; repetitive checking

Research involving

Human

Sponsors and support

Primary sponsor: Universiteit Utrecht

Source(s) of monetary or material Support: Ministerie van OC&W

Intervention

Keyword: checking, experimental psychopathology, memory uncertainty, OCD

Outcome measures

Primary outcome

The main study parameters are the measures at pre-test and post-test, as well as the difference between these two, in participants* ratings of memory vividness, memory detail and confidence in memory. All three measures will be determined from VAS-scale indications.

Secondary outcome

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Study description

Background summary

Available literature has not been able to explain the repetitive nature of checking in OCD checkers. It may be the case that OCD checkers have low confidence in their memories, causing them check again and again. It has recently been demonstrated in healthy subjects that the opposite is also true, namely that repetitive checking leads to increased memory uncertainty. The aim of the current study is to investigate whether this effect can also be observed in actual OCD checkers. It might be the case that OCD patients in general place higher demands on their memories in terms of vividness and detailedness. Two other groups will be included for comparison, namely other anxiety disordered patients and healthy subjects. Hypotheses are that OCD patients have lower beginning scores on memory certainty, vividness and detail. It may also be hypothesized that OCD patients are relatively more vulnerable to the undermining effects of repetitive checking on these aspects.

Study objective

The main objective of the study is to determine whether, and if so, to what extent, there are differences in memory vividness, detail and certainty between OCD patients, another anxiety disorder patients and healthy subjects in a repetitive checking task.

Study design

The study is a 3 x 2 x 2 mixed randomized intervention study.

Intervention

The intervention consists of either twenty relevant checking trials (where subjects are exposed to the effects of repetitive checking) or twenty irrelevant checking trials (where subjects do not engage in repetitive checking).

Study burden and risks

The study consists of filling out two questionnaires and the partaking in one computer task. The total duration of the study is less than an hour. Participants will be visited in their treatment clinic. The checking task has been made abstract so that it does not resemble real-life checking situations. Benefits of the study are that it can provide new insight into the mechanism behind repetitive checking and perhaps contribute to a better and more effective treatment. There are no known risks to offset these benefits: the experiment is short, not at all invasive, and without negative consequences or risks. The experiment has already been carried out several times with healthy participants. This was an important first step in determining whether repetitive checking can undermine memory trustworthiness. However, it is now important to determine whether the same trend can be found in actual patient populations.

Contacts

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Trial sites

Listed location countries

Netherlands

Eligibility criteria

Age

Adults (18-64 years)

Elderly (65 years and older)

Inclusion criteria

Patients should meet the DSM-IV criteria for a compulsive disorder (group 1) or another anxiety disorder (group 2). Subjects in group 3 are sought to match the other subjects based on age, gender and education.

Exclusion criteria

For all groups: insufficient knowledge of the Dutch language; alcohol or drug addiction; psychotic symptoms; aged under 18.

Study design

Design

Study phase:	2
Study type:	Interventional
Intervention model:	Parallel
Allocation:	Randomized controlled trial
Masking:	Open (masking not used)
Control:	Active
Primary purpose:	Other

Recruitment

NL

Recruitment status: Recruitment stopped

Start date (anticipated):	25-08-2008
Enrollment:	68
Type:	Actual

Ethics review

Approved WMO	
Date:	14-08-2007
Application type:	First submission
Review commission:	METC Universitair Medisch Centrum Utrecht (Utrecht)

Study registrations

Followed up by the following (possibly more current) registration

No registrations found.

Other (possibly less up-to-date) registrations in this register

No registrations found.

In other registers

Register	ID
CCMO	NL16368.041.07