Automatic Neurocognitive Assessment in forensic context - forMINDS

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Ethical review	Approved WMO
Status	Recruiting
Health condition type	Cognitive and attention disorders and disturbances
Study type	Observational non invasive

Summary

ID

NL-OMON32806

Source
ToetsingOnline

Brief title
forMINDS

Condition

- Cognitive and attention disorders and disturbances

Synonym
criminals, forensic psychiatric patients

Research involving
Human

Sponsors and support

Primary sponsor: Universitair Medisch Centrum Sint Radboud
Source(s) of monetary or material Support: Ministerie van OC&W

Intervention

Keyword: Forenic, Neurocognitive assessment, Testbattery

Outcome measures

Primary outcome

Main outcome measures will be behavioral data collected when performing the computerized cognitive tasks. These measures will be the reaction/ answer given (correct/incorrect) and reactiontimes.

Secondary outcome

Computerized questionnaires will have to be completed.

Study description

Background summary

Forensic Neuropsychology is a rather new and rapidly evolving field (Guilmette, Faust, Hart & Arkes, 1990). An important aspect of the field of forensic neuropsychology is the assessment of cognitive functions and informing the relation between brain and behaviour. This should be grounded on scientific methods for several reasons: Ideas and hypotheses about cognitive functions in forensic populations can be systematically studied, findings can be replicated and validated leading to an ever more evidenced based theory, with the goal of finding a common standard. This process is therefore ongoing, leading to an accumulation of validated and scientifically accepted information over time. Cognitive assessment is important with respect to clinical issues such as treatment options, risk assessment, etc. Understanding of cognitive functions, the underlying neuronal substrate and the relationship with forensic relevant behaviour is a prerequisite: Which cognitive functions are related to aggressive behaviour; which functions predicts high relapse rates, which treatment approach best meets the person*s cognitive abilities and constraints, etc?
However, at this moment there is no standard for forensic neuropsychological assessment. Furthermore, even though most forensic psychiatric clinics use a standard intake procedure which include risk-, psychiatric- and personality assessment, it commonly does not include a standard neuropsychological/ cognitive assessment procedure. Most importantly, norm scores for standard neuropsychological tests are rarely available for

forensic populations and little is known in how they should be interpreted with regard to forensic relevant behaviour. Researchers are only beginning to understand the relationship between cognitive functions and criminal behaviour. The interpretation of traditional psychological tests is in need of new normative data which better takes into account the specific characteristics found in forensic patients.
In the following we will propose the development of a computerized cognitive test battery for forensic assessment. This test battery will cover a range of cognitive domains thought to be relevant to understanding criminal behaviour. On the one hand this battery will be used to collect a large amount of cognitive performance data from a general prison population, TBS-patients (intramural and polyclinical) and control subjects. This will allow us to develop normative data for forensic populations and to relate these to healthy controls in order to answer relevant research questions concerned with the underlying neurocognitive mechanisms of criminal behaviour. On the other hand the battery will be used in the new standard assessment procedure of the Pompekliniek.

Study objective

The proposed research has several objectives:
1) By implementing a cognitive testbattery in a large population of forensic psychiatric patients, a prison population and healthy controls, we will be able to further develop and adjust the battery based on results and patterns found with the help of these cognitive tests. This will ultimately lead to an standard instrument
2) By collecting a large body of data in forensic psychiatric patients and prison inmates, we will be able to
a) develop normative data relevant for the interpretation of testresults in these population. Normative data from healthy controls is collected for the same reason.
b) collect data for research into the neurocognitive differences between certain subgroups (type of offence, type of diagnosis, etc) and healthy subjects.
c) collection of data necessary for the assessment procedure implemented in forensic psychiatric settings, which is also used for decisions around treatment options. This also includes the possibility of retesting at a later point in time, to evaluate the treatment.

Study design

The study has a cross-sectional design and will include several groups.

Study burden and risks

This research does not involve any risks for the participants.

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

group 1) no past or current neurological or psychiatric disorders
group 2) prisoners without TBS status, whith a DSM-IV Axis 1 and/ or 2 diagnosis
group 3) TBS status with intramural treatment, with an DSM-IV Axis 1 and/ or Axis 2 diagnosis
group 4) TBS status with outpatient treatment, with an DSM-IV Axis 1 and/ or Axis 2 diagnosis

Exclusion criteria

group 1: a history of or recent neurological or psychiatric problems
group 2-4: no axis 1 or 2 diagnosis

Study design

Design

Study type:	Observational non invasive
Intervention model:	Other
Allocation:	Non-randomized controlled trial
Masking:	Open (masking not used)

Primary purpose: Diagnostic

Recruitment

NL

Recruitment status:	Recruiting
Start date (anticipated):	01-03-2009
Enrollment:	160
Type:	Actual

Ethics review

Approved WMO

Date:	03-02-2009
Application type:	First submission
Review commission:	CMO regio Arnhem-Nijmegen (Nijmegen)

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	NL24614.091.08