

# The effects of perseveration in Obsessive Compulsive Disorder on semantic satiation and dissociative doubt

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Part 1: Primary objective 1: Will OCD patients experience dissociative feelings during clinical perseveration? Part 2: Primary objective 2: Will OCD patients report more dissociative uncertainty after perseveratively repeating words than healthy...

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

## Summary

### ID

NL-OMON36836

### Source

ToetsingOnline

### Brief title

The effects of compulsive perseveration

### Condition

- Anxiety disorders and symptoms

### Synonym

Obsessive Compulsive Disorder, obsessive neurosis

### Research involving

Human

### Sponsors and support

**Primary sponsor:** Universiteit Utrecht

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

## Intervention

**Keyword:** Dissociation, OCD, Perseveration, Uncertainty

## Outcome measures

### Primary outcome

First part: The main study parameters are the ratings of dissociative uncertainty of OCD patients after clinical perseveration or after non-perseverative behaviour.

Second part: The main study parameters are the participants\* ratings of dissociative uncertainty, the intolerance of dissociative uncertainty and the degree of semantic satiation after perseveratively and non-perseveratively repeating words. Semantic satiation will be determined by measuring reaction times in the relatedness decision task.

### Secondary outcome

nvt

## Study description

### Background summary

Individuals with obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD) exhibit perseverative behaviours, like checking, to reduce uncertainty, but perseveration paradoxically enhances uncertainty. The crucial question is how perseveration breeds dissociative uncertainty. Findings on inhibition of \*spreading of activation\* may be relevant. When a stimulus (e.g. apple) is processed, semantically-related concepts (e.g. banana) become more accessible. However, when a stimulus is repeatedly processed, spreading of activation is disrupted. This leads to semantic satiation; the accessibility of semantically related stimuli is diminished. OC-like repetitive behaviour (like checking) may also interfere with spreading of activation of semantic related concepts, thereby

reducing access to the meaning of that behaviour. This may result in the ambivalent uncertainty experienced by OCD patients (e.g., \*I can see the switch is off, but it feels fuzzy and unreal\*). In a former study was found that when healthy participants engaged in perseverative checking, semantic satiation was induced and they experienced dissociative uncertainty. The present study will further examine these effects of perseveration in patients with OCD. The first part of the study aims to determine the effects of real-life clinical perseverative behaviour on dissociative uncertainty in OCD patients. In the second part of the study, OCD patients and matched controls will participate in a perseveration task. In this study will be investigated whether OCD patients report more dissociative uncertainty and display a higher level of semantic satiation after perseveratively repeating words than healthy controls. Moreover, we want to study whether OCD patients differ from healthy controls with respect to their intolerance of this dissociative uncertainty.

## **Study objective**

Part 1:

Primary objective 1: Will OCD patients experience dissociative feelings during clinical perseveration?

Part 2:

Primary objective 2: Will OCD patients report more dissociative uncertainty after perseveratively repeating words than healthy controls? Primary objective 3: Will OCD patients display a higher level of semantic satiation after perseveratively repeating words than healthy controls? Primary objective 4: Are speed of relatedness judgements and feelings of dissociative uncertainty positively correlated? Primary objective 5: If dissociative uncertainty occurs, will OCD patients differ from healthy controls with respect to their intolerance of this dissociative uncertainty?

Part 1 and Part 2: Primary objective 6: Are the levels of dissociative uncertainty that are reported by OCD patients in the first part (after clinical perseveration) and the second part (after perseveratively repeating words) positively correlated?

## **Study design**

Part 1: Within subjects design, with one independent variable: Condition (perseveration/non perseveration).

Part 2: Experimental mixed within-between subjects design, with three independent variables: Condition (perseveration/non perseveration), Relatedness (words related/words unrelated) and Group (OCD patients/ healthy controls).

## **Intervention**

## Study burden and risks

Participation in this study will not put the participant at risk for any harm or danger. This study will consist of a set of questionnaires which participants have to fill out at the laboratory and will take approximately 35 minutes, a questionnaire which participants have to fill out at home and participants will be asked to participate in a task in which they have to repeat words and have to respond to harmless tones. Benefits of the studies are that it can provide new insight into the possible mechanisms by which OCD is maintained; how compulsive perseveration leads to a vicious circle of doubt and dissociation. The findings may add to the theoretical rationale for current treatments in OCD, like Exposure and Response Prevention.

## 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 will be included when they have a DSM-IV diagnosis of Obsessive Compulsive Disorder. Patients are allowed to use SSRI drugs, the use of SSRI's will be controlled for in the analysis.

Healthy controls will be age/education matched with the patients included in the study.

## Exclusion criteria

Subjects will be excluded if they are insufficiently proficient in the Dutch language, and/or if they are addicted to alcohol or drugs; and/or if they are under 18 years of age; and/or if they present symptoms from the psychotic spectrum. Patients who use benzodiazepine drugs will be excluded.

Healthy controls will also be excluded when they have any current psychiatric disorder

## Study design

### Design

Study type:	Interventional
Intervention model:	Other
Allocation:	Non-randomized controlled trial
Masking:	Open (masking not used)
Control:	Active
Primary purpose:	Basic science

### Recruitment

NL	
Recruitment status:	Recruitment stopped
Start date (anticipated):	08-03-2013
Enrollment:	50
Type:	Actual

## Ethics review

Approved WMO

Date: 04-09-2012

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	NL40786.041.12