Executive functions in elderly with autism: Neuropsychological testing versus self- and informant-report

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The main objective of this study is to measure executive functions at two levels. First we will compare the results of neuropsychological testing in elderly with autism and compare these findings to elderly without autism. Secondly we will compare...

Ethical review	Approved WMO
Status	Pending
Health condition type	Developmental disorders NEC
Study type	Observational non invasive

Summary

ID

NL-OMON40217

Source
ToetsingOnline

Brief title
Aging in Autism: Executive functions

Condition

- Developmental disorders NEC

Synonym
ASD, autism

Research involving
Human

Sponsors and support

Primary sponsor: GGZ Eindhoven (Eindhoven)
Source(s) of monetary or material Support: Ministerie van OC&W

Intervention

Keyword: aging, elderly, executive, functions

Outcome measures

Primary outcome

The main study parameters are several measurements of executive functioning obtained via neuropsychological testing, a self-report questionnaire and an informant-report questionnaire. Possible cognitive profiles will be compared between the elderly with and without autism.

Secondary outcome

Not applicable

Study description

Background summary

Cognitive autism research has mainly focussed on children and adults. The past few years there has been increased interest in the cognitive development of elderly with autism. Research suggests that the developmental trajectories differ between elderly with and without autism in regards to cognitive functioning. More research is needed however to verify these findings and expand upon them. Cognitive research generally uses neuropsychological testing as a basis. In autism certain cognitive domains seem to be affected, but results vary based on the tasks used, intelligence, gender and most notably age. Mainly because of these inconsistent findings neuropsychological testing is used to ascertain the patients cognitive strengths and weaknesses. One of these domains is executive functioning. Research shows an apparent difference between the cognitive problems reported by patients (or; subjective complaints) and the observed cognitive functioning (or; neuropsychological testing). This study will expand the body of research in regards to the cognitive effects of aging and autism and will also compare the measured executive functions with two self-report questionnaires.

Study objective

The main objective of this study is to measure executive functions at two

levels. First we will compare the results of neuropsychological testing in elderly with autism and compare these findings to elderly without autism. Secondly we will compare these findings to a measurement of self- and informant-report.

Study design

Cross-sectional design

Study burden and risks

Participants with ASD: This study will collect the data of the next fifty elderly (age: 60 and above) who visit our centre and are sub sequentially diagnosed with ASD. For full inclusion criteria see: chapter 4. Nearly all the data will be obtained via the regular diagnostic tests and questionnaires. The only additional questionnaire will be the self-report measurement which will take the participant and an informant (someone who has seen the participant regularly the past 2 years) approximately 20 minutes each. The total burden will be an additional 40 minutes of testing, divided over two people. There are no foreseeable risks associated with this study.

Non-ASD group: This will be a random control group consisting of fifty elderly (age: 60 and above) without a psychiatric condition. For full inclusion criteria see: chapter 4 of the research protocol. Total testing time is approximately 3 hours (1 visit to our centre, or on site).

Testing can be administered on site, or the participant can travel to our centre. We expect only one visit will be necessary to complete the entire regimen. There are no foreseeable risks associated with this study

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

-Male
-Age above 60
-An autism Spectrum Disorder as described in the DSM-5
-Intelligence within the normal range, or above. Total, verbal and performal IQ above 85. This is based on the IQ-cutoff provided by the DSM-IV-TR (V-code V62.89) which indicates mental impairment below 85.

Exclusion criteria

General exclusion criteria:
-Specific somatic disorders: Active infection, known genetic abnormalities, metabolic disorder, tuberculosis, epilepsy and traumatic brain injury.
- Cases with disturbance of consciousness, delirium, psychosis, suicidal tendencies, severe aphasia, or major sensorimotor impairment precluding neuropsychological testing.
-Substance abuse (current)

Study design

Design

Study type:	Observational non invasive
Intervention model:	Other
Allocation:	Non-randomized controlled trial

Masking:	Open (masking not used)
Control:	Active
Primary purpose:	Diagnostic

Recruitment

NL

Recruitment status:	Pending
Start date (anticipated):	01-03-2014
Enrollment:	100
Type:	Anticipated

Ethics review

Approved WMO

Date:	25-06-2014
Application type:	First submission
Review commission:	METC Brabant (Tilburg)

Study registrations

Followed up by the following (possibly more current) registration

No registrations found.

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

ID: 28410
Source: Nationaal Trial Register
Title:

In other registers

Register	ID
CCMO	NL45575.008.13
OMON	NL-OMON28410