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A Comparison of Prospective Memory and Executive Process in Patients with Subcortical Illness

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Poster Presentation 26

A COMPARISON OF PROSPECTIVE MEMORY AND EXECUTIVE PROCESS IN PATIENTS WITH SUBCORTICAL ILLNESS

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Dementia is a common disorder affecting neuropsychological function in several spheres of mental activity including language memory, visuospatial function, and cognition. Studies into the cognitive deficits associated with dementia have allowed researchers to rank neurological disorders into two subclasses: cortical and subcortical dementia. Cortical dementias such as Alzheimer's disease have been the focus of a plethora of studies. Subcortical dementia, which is commonly found in Parkinson's disease, Huntington's disease, and acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS), is marked by bradyphrenia, visuospatial abnormalities, personality alterations, memory disturbances primarily involving recall but not recognition, and loss of executive functions. The differences between these two forms of dementia have been widely studied, but as to date there have been few studies comparing the cognitive differences between subcortical dementias. The current study examines similarities and differences in the cognitive functioning of patients with Huntington's disease, Parkinson's disease, AIDS, a group of age matched controls, and young adult controls in executive functioning, temporal memory, and attention processes using a battery of cognitive tests.