

Newsletter April 2013

Working memory training in children with traumatic brain injury

Thank you for supporting our Randomised Controlled Trial (RCT) evaluating working memory training in children (aged 8 - 16 years) with traumatic brain injury (TBI). The study is actively recruiting participants from East Anglia and the South West of England.

Study updates

Staff training has been completed and we have started to recruit participants into the study. The screening and baseline assessments are currently taking place.

From your feedback, we have designed a poster to advertise the study at participant identification sites. The poster will help to spread awareness of the research. We will circulate the poster to clinicians as soon as it has received full ethical approval.

Also, from your feedback, we are seeking ethical approval to retrospectively review case notes so that we can contact families/children who have previously been seen in the clinics. We will let you know as soon as this is approved. Thank you for this helpful advice.

We have recently created a page on the UEA website to promote studies by our Developmental Neuropsychology Research group. The website contains details regarding current neuropsychological studies at the UEA, including the working memory trial. The website allows individuals to add themselves onto a secure web-based volunteer panel to be contacted about brain injury research at the UEA. We will inform you as soon as the site 'goes live'.

We also have a Facebook page to promote our research projects. Please 'Like' the page if you have a Facebook account and please inform your colleagues of this. Families of children with TBI can also 'Like' this page if they are interested in our research:

www.facebook.com/neuroUEAexeter

We have a new study, conducted by Briony Westgate, validating a home-based questionnaire measure of working memory ability. The questionnaire will be used in our working memory training trial. The study involves parents of typically-developing children (aged 8 -16 years) completing telephone questionnaires for approximately 45-minutes. Please contact Briony directly if you are interested in finding out more about this study (b.westgate@uea.ac.uk).

Study aims

A TBI in childhood can lead to problems with working memory; this can cause further difficulties with learning, academic achievement, behaviour, and social functioning. The current study is evaluating a computerised working memory training programme with young people who have survived a TBI. We are interested in finding out what young people and their families think about the computerised training programme and whether the training programme helps with memory, attention, numeracy, and literacy.

Who is eligible?

Study Inclusion Criteria:

- Survivors of paediatric TBI
- Medically stable
- 6-months post-injury
- 8 yrs – 16 yrs: 11months
- Proficient English fluency
- Access to Internet

Study Exclusion Criteria:

- Evidence of visual/motor impairment preventing use of computer
- Medication affecting memory
- Premorbid diagnosis of learning disability
- Previous direct, repeated practice, working memory training
- Lack capacity to assent/consent

Contact details

If you have any questions related to this study, or experience any problems, please do not hesitate to contact us via, Anna Adlam (a.adlam@uea.ac.uk or a.r.adlam@exeter.ac.uk) or Darren Dunning (d.dunning@uea.ac.uk). We can also be contacted via our research team telephone number: 01603 59 1507.