

Abstract
Poster Session C

Friday, November 15, 2019 8:00 am – 9:30 am

AGING AND DEMENTIA: HEALTHY AGING AND COGNITION

C-21

Emotional Predictors of Self-Reported Frontal Behavior Disruption in Older Adults

Dorenkamp M, Irrgang M, Jacova C, Reohr P, Smith S, Vik P

Objective: Behavioral manifestations of executive dysfunction (e.g., apathy) include internal experiences subject to informant misinterpretation. Self-reports of these functions, however, may be influenced by subjective cognitive concerns (SCC). The purpose of this study was to assess emotional distress and SCC as predictors of self-reported frontal behavior disruption. **Method:** Twenty-one women and 18 men aged 55 to 83 ($M = 66$), completed measures of emotional functioning and SCC. The Frontal Systems Behavior Scale (FrSBe) measured frontal behavior concerns, which provided three subscales (Apathy, Disinhibition, Executive Function) and a total score. Emotional functioning was measured with the Patient Health Questionnaire, 9-item (PHQ-9), Generalized Anxiety Disorder, 7-item (GAD-7), and the Dementia Worry Scale (DWS). SCCs were measured using the Cognitive Function- Short-Form 6a (CFSF). **Results:** FrSBe scores were regressed on PHQ-9, GAD-7, CFSF, and DWS. Apathy was predicted by PHQ ($B = 1.02$, $CI: .49$ to 1.55 , $sr^2 = .151$), CFSF ($B = -.42$, $CI: -.75$ to $-.10$, $sr^2 = .071$), and DWS ($B = .14$, $CI: .02$ to $.26$, $sr^2 = .052$). Disinhibition was predicted by CFSF ($B = -.61$, $CI: -1.06$ to $-.15$, $sr^2 = .134$). Executive dysfunction was predicted by DWS ($B = .22$, $CI: .02$ to $.41$, $sr^2 = .080$). Trends were found for PHQ and CFSF to predict Executive Dysfunction. **Conclusions:** Depression, dementia worry, and SCC predicted aspects of perceived frontal behavior disruption, particularly apathy. Subjective cognitive concern predicted perceived apathy and disinhibition; dementia worry predicted perceived apathy and executive dysfunction. Depression was only predictive of perceived apathy. These findings support the relationship between depression, dementia worry, SCC, and self-reported behavioral disruption emphasizing the importance of emotions and SCC in self-reported behavioral functioning.