

Abstract  
Posters

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NEUROLOGICAL AND NEUROPSYCHIATRIC DISORDERS: TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY

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**Anxiety Influences Traumatic Brain Injury Survivors and Healthy Comparison Adult Bilinguals Stroop Color Word Test Performance**

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**Objective:** We evaluated symptoms of anxiety (via the Hospital Anxiety and Depression Scale; HADS, HADS-A) on Stroop Color Word Test (SCWT) performances in traumatic brain injury (TBI) survivors, as compared to healthy comparison participants (HC). **Method:** The sample consisted of 40 acute TBI survivors [ATBI; 30 normal symptoms of anxiety (NSA); 10 abnormal symptoms of anxiety (ASA)], 30 chronic TBI survivors (CTBI; 16 NSA; 14 ASA), and 50 HC's (28 NSA; 22 ASA). All participants passed performance validity testing. The SCWT included the word (SCWT-W), color (SCWT-C), and color-word (SCWT-CW) conditions. A series of ANOVAs were used to evaluate SCWT performances. **Results:** ANOVA revealed a main effect group on the SCWT-C,  $p = .011$ , and SCWT-CW,  $p = .018$ , with HC's outperforming the ATBI group. Furthermore, HC outperformed both TBI groups on the SCWT-W,  $p = .004$ . We also found that the ASA outperformed the NSA group on the SCWT-W,  $p = .036$ . No interactions emerged between group and anxiety. **Conclusion:** The HC group outperformed both TBI groups on the SCWT-W, but only the ATBI group on SCWT-C and SCWT-CW. Furthermore, we found that there were only differences between the anxiety groups on the SCWT-W. Our findings highlight that anxiety impacts HC and TBI groups differently on the SCWT.