

Abstract
Poster Session A

Thursday, October 18, 2018 12:00 pm - 1:30 pm

NEUROLOGICAL AND NEUROPSYCHIATRIC DISORDERS: CEREBROVASCULAR DISEASE

A - 45

Effect of Self-Reported Fatigue on Neuropsychological Test Performance in Mild Traumatic Brain Injury

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Objective: This study examined the effect of self-reported fatigue on neuropsychological test performance in individuals with Mild Traumatic Brain Injury (mTBI). **Method:** Fifty-three adults meeting diagnostic criteria for mTBI (age 18 to 71 years) were selected from a clinical cohort of patients referred for neuropsychological evaluations. Post-mTBI fatigue was endorsed by 33 patients, and denied by 20 patients. Comparisons of fatigued and non-fatigued groups were made using the standard results from the 5-minute Ruff 2&7 Selective Attention Test, and WAIS-IV Coding, Digit Span and Matrix Reasoning subtests. We also examined fatigability scores comparing performance at the end of the Ruff 2&7 to performance at the beginning. **Results:** Results of Mann-Whitney U tests comparing the fatigue and non-fatigue groups indicated a significant difference in Ruff 2&7 automatic detection error fatigue scores ($z = -2.226$; $p = .026$), with the fatigue group demonstrating increased automatic detection errors toward the end of the test. The rate of errors in the controlled condition approached, but did not reach significance ($z = -1.761$; $p = .078$). Both groups achieved a similar number of hits at the end of the automatic and controlled trials of the Ruff 2&7 test ($z = -0.074$; $p = .941$), and no significant differences were found between the two groups on standard Ruff 2&7 scores or WAIS-IV subtest performances. **Conclusions:** Findings indicate that self-reported fatigue does not significantly affect standard neuropsychological test scores. However, subtle performance differences can be measured that may help elucidate the influence of fatigue in post-mTBI functioning.