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Thoughts on the New Research in Clinical Psychiatry

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This current issue informs the public about the development, course, prevention and treatment of multiple medical and psychiatric conditions [1-3]. While some of the studies emphasized the refinement of various psychiatric practices in novel ways, other studies researched how certain psychiatric illnesses are manifested [4-6]. The diversity of information presented in this issue has a broad impact on research, practice, and health care policy.

In the article, mindfulness-based intervention: A culturally adapted intervention in clinical psychology, the researchers address the unique challenges that Arabic parents of children diagnosed with autism spectrum disorders encounter [1]. In a quasi-experimental design, they found a culturally adapted version of a westernized mindfulness based intervention improved the quality of life among non-western parents. Although quasi-experimental designs present interpretative challenges and limitations, these results suggest that western mindfulness procedures may own some generalizability to non-western populations.

Adults living with autism spectrum disorder, formerly known as Asperger's disorder, require additional social skills training to effectively form relationships with peers and integrate swiftly in the workplace. The researchers of social skills group for adults living with Asperger's syndrome study the functional improvements that a social skills training group has on adults with Asperger's [2]. Not only did these training components increase the adults' social communication skills, but it also decreased their depression and anxiety. The authors discuss the importance of providing skills training and support to adults with Asperger's.

The authors of does test dose of central stimulant influence continuous performance test (CPT) and activity in boys with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder? monitored treatment efficacy of methylphenidate in boys with ADHD [3]. Measuring the treatment dosage effects can act as an alternative way to objectively define efficacy of stimulants. In this small sample size, the authors found the methylphenidate to significantly improve attention and impulsivity. Proper dosing is certainly key to good clinical practice.

In facebook for facing dementia, the authors discuss how facebook is employed as a tool to increase social communication and interaction among individuals with mild stages of dementia [4]. The authors consider a multitude of methods in which facebook can act as a platform for stimulating memory functions. This practice-focused article offers clinical heuristics that could spawn much needed additional research in this area.

The authors of transcranial direct current stimulation as a potential tool for cognitive rehabilitation on Alzheimer's disease propose that a non-invasive brain stimulation tool, tDCS, should be studied in larger clinical trials since pilot studies have shown promising results [5]. Improving cognitive functioning among patients diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease is a clinical imperative. More successful interventions are necessary to enhance patients' quality of life and relieve economic burdens.

In the theoretically-driven article differential, delayed, and dual seizures- "3D Seizures", the authors reconceptualise the diagnostic procedure of pseudo seizures and hysteria [6]. They consider that the limitation of diagnosing pseudo seizures solely by clinical examination is insufficient and suggest that alternative methods of examination must be implemented before giving a definitive diagnosis. By assessing the potential for a differential or dual diagnosis, the authors argue that pseudo seizures and hysteria can be more accurately diagnosed.

This important issue of clinical psychiatry (OA) covers a broad array of issues. The individual papers are stimulating and should spur additional innovative thinking. We are pleased to provide this editorial note to readers.

References

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