

perceived cognitive complaints during a neuropsychological evaluation.

Categories: Mood & Anxiety Disorders

Keyword 1: self-report

Keyword 2: cognitive functioning

Keyword 3: mood disorders

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53 Hoarding Behaviors are Associated with Greater Perceived Cognitive Dysfunction and Disability in Individuals with Late Life Depression

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Objective: Perceived cognitive dysfunction is a common feature of late-life depression (LLD) that is associated with diminished quality of life and greater disability. Similar associations have been demonstrated in individuals with Hoarding Disorder. The degree to which hoarding behaviors (HB) are associated with greater perceived cognitive dysfunction and disability in individuals with concurrent LLD is not known.

Participants and Methods: Participants with LLD (N=83) completed measures of hoarding symptom severity (Savings Inventory-Revised; SI-R) and were classified into two groups based on HB severity: LLD+HB who exhibited significant HB (SI-R \geq 41, n = 25) and LLD with

low HB (SI-R < 41, n = 58). Additional measures assessed depression severity (Hamilton Depression Rating Scale; HDRS), perceived cognitive difficulties (Everyday Cognition Scale; ECOG), and disability (World Health Organization Disability Assessment Scale [WHODAS]-II-Short). Given a non-normal distribution of ECOG and WHODAS-II scores, non-parametric Wilcoxon-Mann-Whitney tests were used to assess group differences in perceived cognitive dysfunction and disability. A regression model assessed the extent to which perceived cognitive dysfunction was associated with hoarding symptom severity measured continuously, covarying for age, education, gender, and depression severity. A separate regression model assessed the extent to which disability scores were associated with perceived cognitive dysfunction and HB severity covarying for demographics and depression severity.

Results: LLD+HB endorsed significantly greater perceived cognitive dysfunction (W = 1023, p = 0.003) and greater disability (W = 1006, p = < 0.001) compared to LLD. Regression models accounting for demographic characteristics and depression severity revealed that greater HB severity was associated with greater perceived cognitive dysfunction (β = 0.009, t = 2.765, p = 0.007). Increased disability was associated with greater perceived cognitive dysfunction (β = 4.792, t(71) = 3.551, p = 0.0007) and HB severity (β = 0.080, t(71) = 1.944, p = 0.056) approached significance after accounting for variance explained by depression severity and demographic covariates.

Conclusions: Our results suggest that hoarding behaviors are associated with increased perceived cognitive dysfunction and greater disability in individuals with LLD. Screening for HB in individuals with LLD may help identify those at greater risk for poor cognitive and functional outcomes. Interventions that target HB and perceived cognitive difficulties may decrease risk for disability in LLD. However, longitudinal studies would be required to further evaluate these relationships.

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