



**Acquired
Brain Injury
Network**

November 3-4, 2008
Hilton Toronto • Toronto

Conference Presentation Abstract ~ Poster

Abstract ID: 15

Title:

Mild Head Injury: A Predictor of Impulsive Antisocial Behaviour

Authors:

Anthony DeBono, B.Sc., Brock University
Dawn Good, Ph.D., C.Psych., Brock University

Presenters:

Anthony DeBono B.Sc., M.A. Student, Brock University
Dawn Good Ph.D, C.Psych., Associate Professor, Brock University

Summary:

Mild head injury (MHI) is a serious cause of neurological impairment as a substantial percentage (15%) of individuals remain symptomatic 1-year following "mild" head trauma. The consequences of MHI can include a constellation of cognitive, somatic, and affective symptoms which can result in maladaptive decision-making and ultimately, antisocial behaviour. The first objective of this study was to examine whether poor executive functioning would predict impulsive antisocial behaviour, whereas superior executive functioning would predict instrumental antisocial behaviour after controlling for sex differences. The second objective was to investigate whether MHI was predictive of impulsive or instrumental antisocial behaviour after controlling for sex differences and executive functioning. Ninety university students participated in neuropsychological testing and 52% self-reported experiencing MHI. As expected, men were more antisocial than women in general. Furthermore, poorer executive functioning accounted for a significant amount of unique variance after controlling for sex differences on Erratic Lifestyle, whereas superior executive functioning was a significant predictor of Interpersonal Manipulation after controlling for sex differences. In addition, MHI status accounted for a significant amount of unique variance over and above sex and executive functioning when predicting Erratic Lifestyle and Antisocial Behaviour, but not Interpersonal Manipulation or Callous Affect. These results imply that incurring a MHI differentially predicts impulsive antisocial behaviour which mirrors the neurobehavioural profile following severe cases of brain injury.

Outcomes/Objectives:

To learning objective of this study was to elucidate the effects of mild head injury (MHI) on impulsive antisocial behaviour. Indeed, the results suggest that MHI differentially predicts impulsive antisocial behaviour after controlling for sex differences, and executive functioning. Therefore, the social consequences of MHI resemble those of more severe forms of brain injury and should be treated compassionately.