

Target Area: Language/ Communication/ Speech > Semantic/ Word finding, Attention and Executive function > Cognitive, Memory, Activities of daily living > Instrumental

<p>Jelcic, N., Cagnin, A., Meneghello, F., Turolla, A., Ermani, M. & Dam, M. et al. (2012), Effects of Lexical–Semantic Treatment on Memory in Early Alzheimer Disease: An Observer-Blinded Randomized Controlled Trial <i>Neurorehabilitation and Neural Repair</i>, 26(8), 949-956.</p>	<p>PEDro score - 7/10</p>
<p>Method/Results</p>	<p>Rehabilitation Program</p>
<p>Design</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Study Design: RCT ➤ Population: n= 40 adults with Alzheimers Disease ➤ Groups: n=20 lexical–semantic stimulation (LSS) intervention, n=20 unstructured cognitive stimulation (UCS). ➤ Setting: Laboratory <p>Primary outcome measure/s:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Mini-Mental State Examination (MMSE), ➤ Boston Naming Test (BNT) ➤ Verbal Naming Test (VNT) ➤ Phonemic and Semantic Fluency ➤ Story Recall ➤ Rey Auditory Verbal Learning (RAVL). <p>Secondary outcome measure/s:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Forward Digit Span Test -working memory ➤ Rey– Osterrieth Complex Figure (ROCF) and Clock Drawing Test- visual spatial memory ➤ Stroop Test, Attentive Matrices, Trail Making Test- attention and executive functions ➤ Instrumental activities of daily life (IADL) <p>Results:</p> <p>At the end of 3 months of treatment, within-group and between-group comparisons showed that stimulation of lexical–semantic abilities improved global cognitive performance, lexical–semantic abilities, and verbal episodic memory.</p> <p>LSS effects did not yield a clinical meaningful improvement of attention and executive functions.</p>	<p>Aim: To investigate whether interventions that are targeted at stimulating lexical–semantic abilities and strengthening semantic representations may produce an improvement of verbal communication and semantic memory.</p> <p>Materials: A simple computerized randomization technique was used to divide subjects into the 2 treatment groups. Focused lexical–semantic rehabilitation exercises were used.</p> <p>Treatment Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Duration: Both the LCC and UCS conditions underwent 3 months of treatments; with the LSS group given a 6-month follow up. ➤ Procedure: All assessments were carried out by an experienced neuropsychologist (EM), blinded to the treatment group to which each patient was allocated. The intervention protocol consisted of 2 weekly sessions of LSS or UCS exercises, lasting 1 hour each in the morning, over a period of 3 months. ➤ Content: The LSS protocol contained a range of lexical tasks. Exercises focused on the interpretation of written words, sentences, and stories and are divided into 8 main parts, e.g., semantic categories, syntagmatic and paradigmatic relationships, level of semantic affinity between words.