

Target Area: Behaviour Problems

<p>Watson, Rutterford, Shortland, Williamson & Alderman (2001). <i>Reduction of Chronic Aggressive Behaviour 10 Years After Brain Injury</i>. <i>Brain Injury</i> 15(11): 1003-1015</p>	<p>RoBiNT score - <i>to be confirmed</i></p>
<p>Method/Results</p>	<p>Rehabilitation Program</p>
<p>Design:</p> <p>Y Study type: SSD. ABC (A=baseline observation of aggression before treatment, B=DRL intervention, C=DRI intervention).</p> <p>Y Participant: Male, age mid-30 years, with brain injury following a gunshot to the head 10 years prior. He underwent right frontal and temporal lobectomies, and may have suffered additional brain injury when he contracted meningitis with hydrocephalus. He developed epilepsy, left sided hemiplegia, and severe behavioural problems with aggression. Neuropsychological assessment revealed global cognitive impairment. He was an inpatient in a specialist neurobehavioural unit for several years.</p> <p>Y Setting: Inpatient rehabilitation.</p> <p>Target behaviour measure/s</p> <p>Y Verbally abusive behaviours (shouting, swearing, threatening well being) as measured by the Overt Aggression Scaled Modified for Neurorehabilitation (OAS-MNR).</p> <p>Primary outcome measure/s:</p> <p>Y No additional measures.</p> <p>Result: Significant improvements in the level of aggressive behaviour were observed. Despite increased expectations and demands, frequency of aggression and mean ratings of severity on the OAS-MNR significantly reduced. The patient was able to move out of the units into a satellite group home.</p>	<p>Aim: To reduce chronic aggressive behaviour following severe head injury using a Differential Reinforcement of Low rates of responding (DRL) intervention.</p> <p>Materials: Star stickers and a star wall chart, tangible rewards that are meaningful to the patient.</p> <p>Treatment plan:</p> <p>Y Duration: A: 11 day observation period; B: 425 days intervention.</p> <p>Y Procedure: Intervention ran for 5 days per week (Mon-Fri) for 85 weeks.</p> <p>Y Content: Each morning the patient is informed of his opportunity to earn stars throughout the day if he has not been aggressive more than a specified number of times during 4 time periods. The program begins with a target level that is easily achievable. Target levels are then reduced as the program progresses. At the end of each period the patient is given feedback regarding his performance and reminded about the aims of the program. Social praise and a star are given when the patient improves. If behaviour does not improve, the patient is encouraged to do better next time. When aggressive outbursts occur, staff are instructed to withdraw attention (TOOTS technique). If all 4 stars are earned in the day, a tangible reward is provided.</p>