

The impact of executive functioning and time processing abilities on adaptive functioning in children with Tourette Syndrome

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SUMMARY

The small grant helped fund two doctoral level research projects which were completed in a timely way with 47 young people with Tourette syndrome (TS).

The inspiration for the research was years of experienced clinicians noticing that young people with TS and their carers reported difficulties with independence and day-to-day functional abilities such as communication, self-care, self-direction and motor skills. This was found in children who had TS and those who had TS plus ADHD.

The results showed that most of the participants performed within the Average range on tasks of thinking abilities, which is consistent with most young people of the same age in the general population. However, reported levels of independence and day-to-day functioning were much lower than expected for their age. Interestingly, and possibly not surprisingly, the young people's ability to process time and their executive function skills (planning, organisation, initiation, task completion skills) were found to be related to difficulties with day-to-day independence. It is hoped that clinicians who work with young people will be aware of these challenges and seek further information at assessments to help support them in building independence.

Finally, it was also found that the participants with higher tic severity struggled most with time processing. This is important to know because it might again help families and professionals to understand that individuals with most tics require additional support in their day to day lives. Findings of this kind have contributed to new knowledge on young people with TS and have highlighted the awareness for clinicians to ask about difficulties in this area.

Ultimately, it is hoped that this research will help contribute to novel ways to improve the quality of life of young people with TS by providing focus and informed interventions.

Click here for the links to publications:

[Adaptive Functioning and Time Processing in Children with Tourette Syndrome](#)

[Investigating executive functioning abilities in Tourette Syndrome \(TS\) and effects on adaptive functioning](#)