

Memory

Realizing delayed intentions: overactivated monitoring function in obsessive compulsive disorder (OCD)**Gyula Demeter**

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Obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD) is characterized by repetitive intrusive unwanted thoughts (obsessions) and repetitive behaviors (compulsions). It is generally thought that executive system is the main underlying cognitive factor of symptoms of OCD (Olley et al., 2007). Here we present two experiments aimed to investigate event based prospective memory (PM) functions in OCD. In the first experiment we adapted the experimental paradigm developed by Burgess et al. (2001), while in the second experiment we applied a modified dual-task paradigm, which required the altered execution and inhibition of responses to the same secondary task cues. According to our results the OCD group performed significantly slower on these tasks than the matched healthy control group. In the second experiment patients made significantly more false alarm type errors and there was a significant positive correlation between the number of false alarms and the PM subscale scores of the Prospective Retrospective Memory Questionnaire (PRMQ). These findings suggest that patients experience difficulties during event-based PM task and that these difficulties may originate from over-monitoring stimuli for possible PM cues and the disinhibition of activated out-of-date responses.

Keywords: executive functions, prospective memory, OCD