Memory Assessment, Loneliness, and Culture

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Outline

- Overview of cognitive assessment
- Loneliness assessment
- Review a model of culture
- Case presentation
Inquiring minds

- What does a memory assessment include?
- How do you define culture?
- What influence does culture have on neuropsychological assessment?
Common referral questions

- Baseline cognitive functioning
- Medical and financial decision making
- Capacity to live independently
- Etiology: Dementia versus psychiatric
Cognitive assessment

- Cognitive domains assessed
  - Attention
  - Learning and memory
  - Language
  - Visuospatial
  - Executive functioning
  - Judgment and insight
Cognitive assessment

- Other domains assessed
  - Emotional functioning
  - Activities of Daily Living
  - Instrumental Activities of Daily Living
Loneliness

- How often do you feel you have nobody to talk to?

- How often do you feel others don’t care about you?

  ◦ Adapted from the UCLA Loneliness Scale – (Version 3)
Loneliness

- Loneliness and isolation associated with poorer memory functioning (Shankar, et al., 2013)
Two Cultural Models

- **Hays**
  - (A) Age, Generational
  - (D,D) Developmental and acquired Disabilities
  - (R) Religion, Spirituality
  - (E) Ethnicity
  - (S) Socioeconomic status
  - (S) Sexual orientation
  - (I) Indigenous heritage
  - (N) National origin
  - (G) Gender

- **D’Andrea & Daniels**
  - (R) Religious–spiritual
  - (E) Ethnicity
  - (S) Sexual identity
  - (P) Psychological maturity
  - (E) Economic class
  - (C) Chronological, developmental challenges
  - (T) Trauma
  - (F) Family history
  - (U) Unique physical characteristics
  - (L) Location of residence
Ages 81+ are among the fastest growing age group
Developmental & Acquired Disabilities

- Traumatic Brain Injury
- Stroke
- Spinal Cord Injury
- Learning Disability
- Visual and Hearing Impairment
Religion

- Christianity
- Islam
- Agnostic
- Atheist
- Hinduism
- Buddhism
- Judaism
Ethnicity

- African Americans
- Asian Americans
- Bi/Multi-Ethnic
- European Americans
- Latinos/Latinas/Hispanic
- Native Americans
Socioeconomic status

- Education
- Occupation
- Income level
- Rural, urban habitat
Sexual Orientation

- Asexual
- Bisexual
- Heterosexual
- Homosexual
- Pansexual
- Polysexual
Indigenous heritage

- Overlap with Ethnicity?
- Native Hawaiians
- American Indians
- Alaska Natives
National Origin

- Nation where you were born
- Refugee
- Immigrant
Gender

- Female
- Male
- Transgender
- Intersex
Cultural Awareness: Experiential Exercise

- (A)
- (D,D)
- (R)
- (E)
- (S)
- (S)
- (S)
- (I)
- (N)
- (G)
Cultural challenges in memory assessment

- Socioeconomic status (education)
- Ethnicity
- Age (90+)
- Disability (vision, hearing)
- National origin (language)
Case Study 1

- 85 year old
- Widowed
- Male from Honduras (1981 – age 53)
- 8 years of education in Honduras
- Spanish only
Case Study 1

- Poor attention, memory loss for 10 years
- Medically stable, no medications
- Dependent in IADLs
- 2 daughters in Mexico, son in Puerto Rico
- Worked as a handyman in US
Case Study 1

- History of problems with alcohol, none now
- Smokes ½ pack per day
- Depressive symptoms per granddaughter
- Client reports feeling lonely
- Denies SI/HI; delusions/hallucinations
Case Study 1

- Collaterals: granddaughter, case manager
- Brief psych screen
- MOCA, Spanish version
- NAB judgment
- Orientation log
- Oral trails
- RBANS figure copy
- WAIS–III Matrix Reasoning
Case Study 1

- MOCA – impaired
- Processing speed – mildly impaired
- Visualspatial – impaired
- Nonverbal reasoning – unable to complete
- Judgment – moderately impaired
Case Study 1

- 24 hour supervision
- Day program
- Friendship Line
- Psychotherapy
- Medical follow up


Resources