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DECLARATION

I declare that 'LIVING WITH MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS: AN EXPLORATORY STUDY OF SOME PSYCHOLOGICAL AND DEMOGRAPHIC ASPECTS' is my own work and that all the sources that I have used or quoted have been indicated and acknowledged by means of complete references.

Signed:

Hester-Louise Henderson

Date: 15 June 2005

SUMMARY

The study explored the nature of the involvement of certain demographic (gender, age and education), cognitive (specifically executive functions) and psychological factors (personality changes and other psychosocial issues) in the disease process in a group of MS patients. A sample of 20 adults (8 male and 12 female) with a mean age of 47,65 years was employed. The assessments procedure entailed a set of neuropsychological measures, a 16 PF questionnaire and a semi-structured interview (with a significant other) from which certain qualitative themes were extracted. The MS sufferers showed deficiencies on measures of executive function, a 16 PF profile in accordance with that of individuals with physical illness and the qualitative themes revolved around issues such as mood, independence, work-status, self-confidence and cognitive difficulties. The data resulting from these assessments supported one another and served to enrich our knowledge regarding the life world of the person with MS.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	i
DECLARATION	ii
SUMMARY	iii
TABLE OF CONTENTS	iv
LIST OF TABLES, FIGURES AND BOXES	vii

CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

1.1. OVERVIEW	1
1.2. THE CURRENT STUDY	4

CHAPTER 2: MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS

2.1. INTRODUCTION	6
2.2. ETIOLOGY AND INCIDENCE	6
2.3. PATHOPHYSIOLOGY	8
2.4. CLINICAL MANIFESTATIONS AND DISEASE COURSE	10
2.5. MEDICAL MANAGEMENT	14
2.5.1. Treatment Of Acute Exacerbations	14
2.5.2. Symptom Management	15
2.5.3. Disease Modification	18
2.5.4. Rehabilitation	20
2.5.5. Psychosocial Support	20
2.6. CONCLUSION	21

CHAPTER 3: FUNCTIONAL BRAIN ANATOMY RELEVANT TO THE CURRENT STUDY

3.1. INTRODUCTION	22
3.2. GENERAL ORGANISATION OF THE BRAIN	22
3.2.1. First Functional Unit of the Brain	23
3.2.2. Second Functional Unit of the Brain	24
3.2.3. Third Functional Unit of the Brain	24
3.3. THE FRONTAL LOBES	26
3.3.1. The Role of the Frontal Lobes in Adaptive Behaviour	26
3.3.2. The Frontal Lobes and Multiple Sclerosis	28
3.3.3. The Frontal Lobe Syndrome	31
3.4. BRAIN STRUCTURES RELATED TO AFFECT	33
3.5. CONCLUSION	34

CHAPTER 4: THE PSYCHOSOCIAL EFFECTS OF MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS

4.1. INTRODUCTION	36
4.2. EMOTIONAL STATUS	37
4.2.1. Stress	37
4.2.1.1. Mechanisms through which psychosocial factors influence immune function	39

4.2.2.	Disturbances of Affect	42
4.2.2.1.	Depressive disorder	44
4.2.2.1.1.	Etiology of depression in MS	46
4.2.2.1.2.	Depression and physical disability	47
4.2.2.1.3.	Depression and cognitive impairment	48
4.2.2.2.	Bipolar affective disorder	49
4.2.2.3.	Euphoria	52
4.2.2.4.	Pathological laughing and weeping	55
4.3.	FATIGUE	56
4.4.	ASPECTS RELATING TO PERSONAL LIFE: SELF-ESTEEM, RELATIONSHIPS, ROLES AND EMPLOYMENT	63
4.5.	ASPECTS RELATED TO ADAPTATION AND COPING	68
4.6.	CONCLUSION	72

CHAPTER 5: COGNITIVE FUNCTIONING AND MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS

5.1.	INTRODUCTION	73
5.2.	SOME VARIABLES THAT AFFECT COGNITIVE FUNCTIONING IN MS	75
5.2.1.	Lesions	75
5.2.2.	Duration of Illness	76
5.2.3.	Type of Multiple Sclerosis	76
5.2.4.	Degree of Physical Disability	77
5.2.5.	Influence of Comorbid Conditions	77
5.3.	COGNITIVE ABILITIES AFFECTED BY MS	78
5.3.1.	Intelligence	78
5.3.2.	Attention and Information Processing Speed	79
5.3.3.	Executive Functions	80
5.3.4.	Visual and Auditory Processing	82
5.3.5.	Memory	82
5.4.	IS COGNITIVE DYSFUNCTION IN MS A SUBCORTICAL DEMENTIA?	85
5.5.	THE INFLUENCE OF COGNITIVE CHANGE ON DAILY LIFE	87
5.6.	CONCLUSION	87

CHAPTER 6: METHODOLOGY

6.1.	AIM OF THE PRESENT STUDY	90
6.2.	THE STUDY	90
6.2.1.	Sample	90
6.2.2.	Procedure	91
6.2.3.	Assessment Procedure	92
6.2.4.	Psychometric Measures	93
6.2.4.1.	Rey Auditory-Verbal Learning Test	94
6.2.4.2.	Controlled Oral Word Association Test	95
6.2.4.3.	Digits Forward and Backward (SAWAIS)	96
6.2.4.4.	Block Design (SAWAIS)	97
6.2.4.5.	Trail-Making Test	98

6.2.4.6.	Wisconsin Card Sorting Test	99
6.2.4.7.	16 Personality Factor Questionnaire	99
6.2.4.8.	Qualitative Interview	100
6.3.	CONCLUSION	101

CHAPTER 7: RESULTS

7.1.	INTRODUCTION	102
7.2.	DEMOGRAPHIC INDICATORS IN MS	102
7.2.1.	Gender	102
7.2.2.	Age	102
7.2.3.	Education	103
7.3.	COGNITIVE INDICATORS IN MS	105
7.3.1.	Rey Auditory-Verbal Learning Test (RAVLT)	105
7.3.2.	Controlled Oral Word Association Test (COWAT)	109
7.3.3.	Digit Span (forward and backward) subtest of the SAWAIS	110
7.3.4.	Block Design subtest of the SAWAIS	111
7.3.5.	Trail Making Test (TMT)	112
7.3.6.	Wisconsin Card Sorting Test (WCST)	112
7.4.	PSYCHOLOGICAL INDICATORS IN MS	113
7.4.1.	The 16PF Questionnaire	113
7.4.2.	Qualitative Themes	116
7.4.2.1.	Independence	117
7.4.2.2.	Work status	117
7.4.2.3.	Extraversion/Introversion	117
7.4.2.4.	Depression	118
7.4.2.5.	Memory function	118
7.4.2.6.	Self-confidence	119
7.4.2.7.	Fatigue	119
7.4.2.8.	Anxiety	120
7.4.2.9.	Planning abilities	120
7.4.2.10.	Emotional lability	121
7.4.2.11.	Aggression	121
7.5.	CONCLUSION	122

CHAPTER 8: CONCLUSION

8.1.	OVERVIEW	123
8.2.	CONCLUSIONS FROM THE DATA	123
8.2.1.	Demographic Factors	123
8.2.2.	Cognitive Factors	124
8.2.3.	Psychological Factors	128
8.3.	LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY AND SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE RESEARCH	130
8.4.	CONCLUSION	132

REFERENCES 133

LIST OF TABLES, FIGURES AND BOXES

TABLE 2.1:	CLASSIFICATION OF MS DISEASE COURSE	11
TABLE 2.2:	SYMPTOMS OF MS – TREATMENTS AND PSYCHOSOCIAL IMPACT	16
BOX 4.1:	FACTORS THAT LEAD TO RECURRING STRESS IN MS	42
BOX 5.1:	COGNITIVE IMPAIRMENT IN MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS: ‘RED FLAGS’ FOR THE CLINICIAN	89
TABLE 6.1:	ASSESSMENT PROTOCOL	94
TABLE 7.1:	AVERAGE AGE DISTRIBUTION	103
TABLE 7.2:	RAVLT TRIALS I AND V – ACTUAL NUMBER OF WORDS RECALLED	106
FIGURE 7.1:	16PF PROFILE USING THE AVERAGES OF THE STANDARDISED VALUES OF THE SAMPLE AS A WHOLE	115
TABLE 7.3:	FREQUENCIES OF THEMES MENTIONED IN INTERVIEWS	116
TABLE 8.1:	STATISTICALLY SIGNIFICANT CORRELATIONS BETWEEN COGNITIVE INDICATORS	125