

CHAPTER 15: NEUROCOGNITIVE DISORDERS CLINICAL ISSUES

- On what grounds might a clinician decide to provide restorative treatment for a cognitive deficit (e.g. memory training) as opposed to compensatory skills training based on dealing with the daily living difficulties posed by the deficit?
- How might a clinical neuropsychologist differentiate a memory deficit from normal forgetfulness (especially in old age)?
- What are the problems involved in differentiating the symptoms and deficits found in neurological disorders from those found in psychopathologies with predominantly psychological symptoms?
- How might the development of psychological problems (e.g. depression) affect the diagnosis and treatment of a neurological disorder?
- What are the difficulties of diagnosing neurological disorders when the symptoms of a range of different disorders overlap?
- Does treating post-stroke depression (with either drugs or psychological therapy) have a significant effect on the course of the disorder?
- What are the problems in distinguishing the symptoms of a degenerative disorder from the normal process of ageing?
- In what ways do anxiety and depression in old age complicate neurological testing?
- How does a clinician take into account individual differences in level of education, level of family and social support, and psychological history when diagnosing neurological disorders?
- What are the pros and cons of advocating genetic testing for degenerative disorders such as Alzheimer's disease?
- Alzheimer's Disease is difficult to differentiate from many other forms of degenerative dementia, so how can a relatively reliable diagnosis be made?
- What kinds of support and counselling should be given to individuals who are diagnosed with a potentially untreatable degenerative disorder?
- Drug treatments of degenerative disorders such as Alzheimer's Disease may be more successful the earlier the disorder is identified. How can clinicians contribute to the early detection of such degenerative disorders?
- The success of thrombolytic therapy for strokes is dependent on the individual being able to identify the early signs of a stroke. How can potential stroke patients be made aware of detecting these early signs and seeking rapid treatment?
- What are the benefits of adopting a holistic approach to neuropsychological rehabilitation?
- Do support programmes for caregivers indirectly provide a better quality of life for those suffering from neurological disorders?