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EPP200

E-Coaching for parents of young children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD): study protocol, feasibility and preliminary efficacy

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Introduction: Autism spectrum disorder (ASD) is a neurodevelopmental disorder that highly impacts children’s development, representing a significant challenge in pediatric healthcare. Parents of children with ASD are nowadays considered as real partners in their children’s care. Several parent-mediated interventions (PMIs) have proven to produce sustained improvements in autism symptomatology and social communication. However, widespread access to this type of intervention is still very limited mostly due to geographic and logistic constraints. The use of technology is therefore increasingly considered with the use of videoconferencing and online training modules. In this context, our team developed a novel parental coaching via E-learning (E-coaching) intended for parents of pre-school children with ASD.

Objectives: The ongoing randomized controlled trial aims to evaluate the feasibility and preliminary efficacy of our E-Coaching program compared to a standard coaching and a control group with no PMI.

Methods: The present study is a monocentric randomized controlled trial with three arms (E-coaching, Standard coaching, Control) of 33 children (N=99). Feasibility was assessed across recruitment, acceptability and implementation using semi-structured interviews. The primary outcome will be the quality of parent-child interaction, measured using a range of behavioral observations and by monitoring parent and child gaze using two head-mounted eye-tracking systems during semi-structured standardized play sessions. Secondary outcomes will include child’s developmental level through neuropsychological testing, and parental wellbeing through several standardized parent-report questionnaires.

Results: We present preliminary evidence supporting the feasibility and acceptability of the intervention, with participants reporting positive benefits on parent-child interaction. Preliminary observational data on the first families provided support for an improvement on parent-child interaction immediately after the end of the E-coaching intervention, as well as an increase of parental wellbeing.

Conclusions: We found initial feasibility for our E-coaching program, suggesting that parent-mediated E-learning interventions may be a promising format to implement with ASD families. Further evaluation to assess efficacy of the intervention is warranted and underway. If validated, E-coaching will enable us to reach a larger number of families and to have an early and meaningful impact on the developmental trajectory of these children, and on their quality of life.

Disclosure of Interest: None Declared

Neuroimaging

EPP202

Resting-state fMRI in Obsessive Compulsive Disorder patients compared to healthy controls

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Introduction: Previous resting-state fMRI studies have found hypoconnectivity between the areas underlying default mode and salience networks in OCD patients. A general dysconnectivity has been observed between the frontoparietal network and corticostriatal-thalamocortical loops in patients with OCD, We conducted a study to understand the neural correlates of OCD and its sub-types and compared them with healthy controls. As a part of the analysis of fMRI data, we also analyzed the resting state data for OCD patients and compared it to that of healthy controls.

Objectives: To study the neural correlates of OCD using functional MRI by comparing the resting state functional connectivity in OCD patients with healthy controls.

Methods: We used the resting state functional MRI data of 8 OCD patients and compared it with 10 healthy controls. The healthy controls and patients were not age—and sex-matched. The resting state fMRI data was assessed using the CONN functional connectivity toolbox, version 15.d, in MATLAB. The Regions of interest (ROIs) were mapped using the MNI coordinate system. The functional connectivity (FC) was studied with ROI-to-ROI analysis and seed-to-voxel analysis.

Results: 1. In ROI to ROI analysis between resting state networks, only one significant result was found when FC between all the brain networks was compared. as shown in table 1 and image 1.

Table 1.

Seed	Target	T-statistic	X, Y, Z	p-uncorrected	p-FDR corrected
Lateral Occipital Cortex, inferior division Right (iLOCr)	Salience rostral pre-frontal cortex	T(16) = 5.32	46, -74, -2	0.0001	0.0112

2. Seed-to-voxel-based analysis revealed that at p-FWE <0.05 corrected, the left and right occipital pole and right intra-calcarine cortex were more active in OCD patients as shown in image 2.