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Research Paper / Article / Review

Neuropsychological Assessment Of Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)

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Abstract: Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) is a complicated disorder with wide-ranging emotional and cognitive repercussions. This study investigates the many causes of traumatic brain injuries (TBIs), which can range in severity from moderate to severe, and the corresponding impairments in cognition, motor function, and behaviour. A review of the literature is included in the study to clarify the many aspects of traumatic brain injury (TBI) and the importance of neuropsychological evaluations. It also looks at how neuropsychological assessments can help in understanding and treating traumatic brain injury (TBI) and emphasizes the value of good communication in medical care. To promote patient-centered care, the research also looks into how patients participate in the assessment process and identifies areas that need improvement. The approach uses a structured survey to collect data on experiences with neuropsychological screening following traumatic brain injury. Results show that people's satisfaction levels differ, which emphasizes the need for more precise explanations and individualized care. The importance of individualized neuropsychological evaluations in TBI treatment is highlighted by this study's findings. It highlights how crucial it is to have open lines of communication and offer support. It also provides a way to improve the quality of life for TBI survivors by acknowledging the individuality of each person's experience and offering tailored care and understanding throughout their recuperation process.

Keywords: traumatic brain injury, consciousness, neuropsychological.

1. INTRODUCTION:

Understanding and treating the complex effects of traumatic brain injury (TBI) depend heavily on neuropsychological evaluation. TBI can have severe cognitive, emotional, and behavioural repercussions and can be caused by a variety of events and situations. A thorough framework for assessing these effects and directing efficient therapeutic techniques is provided by neuropsychological evaluation. Traumatic brain injury (TBI) is an acquired lesion to the brain caused by an external mechanical force, which can affect motor and cognitive function temporarily or permanently.

In Western nations, it is the main cause of mortality and disability among young people. Depending on the degree of consciousness, the length of the coma, and the duration of posttraumatic amnesia (PTA), TBI is categorized as mild, moderate, or severe.1) A GCS (Glasgow Coma Scale) score of 13 to 15 is indicative of a mild traumatic brain injury (commonly referred to as a concussion). A momentary loss of consciousness, bewilderment, disorientation, and momentary neurological abnormalities are possible symptoms. With the right care and rest, people with mild TBI frequently fully recover, but they could endure transient cognitive and emotional symptoms.2) A GCS score of 9 to 12 usually reflects a moderate traumatic brain injury (TBI). In this group, people frequently suffer from more serious cognitive and neurological impairments, as well as longer-lasting loss of consciousness (up to a few hours). Recovery may be more difficult and rehabilitation is frequently required.3) A GCS score of 8 or less indicates a severe TBI. This is the most severe type of TBI and is characterized by a major loss of consciousness, protracted amnesia, and neurological impairments. The process of recovering from a severe TBI can be difficult and time-consuming, frequently requiring substantial support and rehabilitation. A person in a coma is unconscious and has no remaining consciousness after suffering a head injury or a brief loss of oxygen to the brain. From this point, it is possible to make a nearly full



recovery or to progress to a disorder of consciousness (DOC), such as a vegetative state (more recently known as unresponsive wakefulness syndrome, or UWS), in which the patient regains the sleep-wake cycle but is not conscious of himself or herself or the surroundings.

Dysfunction is a key notion in the context of neuropsychological assessment in Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) that merits investigation and comprehension. Dysfunction is the term for numerous cognitive, emotional, and behavioural processes that are affected negatively or differently as a result of brain injury. These dysfunctions have a substantial impact on a person's daily life, well-being, and overall quality of life, whether they are mild or severe, short-term or long-term. The main dysfunctions following TBI are: 1) sensory-motor impairments, 2) cognitive deficits involving attentional processes, executive functions, memory abilities, reasoning and problem-solving, and linguistic and visual-spatial cognition, and 3) behavioural alterations such as apathy, irritability, aggression, disinhibition, inertia, and mood disorders. This dysfunction may manifest in many different ways. These symptoms are usually linked to having a detrimental impact on emotional status and condition awareness.

Additionally, we want to look into how people with TBI find medical care, how they participate in the evaluation process, and how neuropsychological testing affects their day-today activities. We aim to contribute to a better knowledge of TBI and improve the standard of care and assistance given to those impacted by these injuries by thoroughly researching these issues. The goal of this study is to fill the knowledge gap between the medical community and the special requirements of people who have suffered a traumatic brain injury (TBI) by highlighting the significance of individualized and patient-centred neuropsychological examinations.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW:

MD. Franzen(2000)in hospitals, taking care of trauma patients is complex because many things can affect their treatment. One big challenge is when patients have had injuries to their brain. This can make it hard for them to pay attention, remember things, talk, or solve a problem which makes it tough for them to be involved in their medical care. On top of that, these patients might also feel anxious or sad, which can make it tricky for them to talk to the doctors and nurses. To help with these issues, neuropsychologists step in. They look at how patients are thinking and feeling and suggest ways to improve their interactions with medical staff.

SR. Laker(2015)sports-related concussions (SRC) are common across all ages and sports. They are diagnosed based on clinical judgment, ruling out more serious injuries. SRC symptoms are due to temporary brain changes, such as altered blood flow and chemical shifts, often causing headaches, cognitive issues, light, and noise sensitivity. Losing consciousness is rare and doesn't greatly affect recovery. Medical scans have limited uses, primarily for severe brain issues. Treatment is symptom-based with most recovering in 7-10 days. Athletes should only return to play after symptoms resolve and follow a supervised, step-by-step plan.

P. Arnett, J. Meyer, V. Merritt, and E. Guty(2016) build on the idea that baseline tests can help manage concussions in college sports. They explain that when there is no baseline test, there is a need for a good plan. They suggest a flexible plan based on how common cognitive problems are after a concussion, which is a bit different for men and women. This plan can be used even when athletes still have symptoms or when they feel better. It's based on real test results from college athletes, but the same idea could work for other athletes and tests. Their approach is based on evidence, but it also allows for new ideas and customized ways to manage concussions.

P. Azouvi, A. Arnould, E. Dromer, and C. VallatAzouvi(2017) discuss the serious problems caused by traumatic brain injuries (TBI). People who survive severe TBIs often have trouble with their thinking and behaviour because of brain damage. They may experience issues like slow thinking, memory problems, trouble paying attention and difficulty making decisions. They can also struggle with understanding others and being aware of themselves. Many of these TBI survivors also feel very tired mentally. Even with mild TBIs, there are challenges. Most people get better within a few weeks, but some continue to have problems, a condition called post-concussion syndrome. The reasons for these long-lasting problems are not completely clear, but they seem to be due to a mix of injury-related and other factors.

JR. Soble, EA. Critchfield, and JJ. O'Rourke(2017) talked about how clinical neuropsychology helps us understand how the brain affects behaviour. They said that neuropsychological evaluations are like flexible tools that use tests and clinical information to understand the effects of traumatic brain injuries (TBI) on a person's thinking and emotions. These evaluations are not just about understanding TBI but also help with predicting how someone will do, tracking



their recovery, figuring out the best ways to help them, and seeing if treatments are working. This shows that using scientific assessments in neuropsychology is very important in managing TBI patients.

B. Johansson and L. Rönnbäck(2017) talked about how many people experience mental fatigue after a head injury, whether it's mild, moderate or severe. This tiredness can stick around for a long time, even after other brain-related problems are gone. Mental fatigue makes them feel exhausted easily, and it takes a while to get better. It can make it hard to do your job, study, or enjoy social activities. They made a scale to measure this mental fatigue and found a few treatments that helped a bit, like mindfulness, light therapy and certain medicines. But they said we still need to learn more about why this tiredness happens and how to treat it better. They suggested doing more studies that look at the results of treatments over a long time and trying different kinds of treatments, both with and without medicine.

ZQ. Liu, X. Zeng, CY. Duan (2018) looked for studies about helping adults with depression after a head injury that wasn't related to the military. They found three studies with 231 people. These studies used treatments like talking therapy and mindfulness to help with depression after a head injury. They discovered that these treatments made a small difference, but it wasn't a big or clear change. They couldn't check if the results were affected by missing studies because there weren't many studies to look at.

B. Dwyer, DI. Katz (2018) talked about something called post-concussion syndrome (PCS). It's a bit tricky because it has many different symptoms like headaches, trouble thinking and feeling down. Some people have these symptoms for a long time after a head injury. They suggested that there are two phases to how these symptoms show up: one early phase right after the injury and another later phase influenced by how a person feels and thinks. They found that people who had more symptoms at the beginning, had multiple head injuries or had other mental health problems might be more likely to have long-lasting symptoms. To help, they suggested a step-by-step approach to treating these symptoms, which could include exercise.

KA. Scorza, W. Cole(2019) talked about how common concussions are, especially in adults and young people, and why they are a big health concern. They explained that concussions happen when your head gets hit, and it can cause problems with your body, thinking and emotions. The symptoms can be a bit tricky to figure out, so it's important to connect them to when the injury happened. Doctors use tests to help with the diagnosis. To get better, you need rest and care for your symptoms, but everyone's recovery is different. Younger people, especially kids, need extra care because their brains are still growing.

NJ. Washnik, J. Anjum, K. Lundgren, S. Phillips(2019) talked about how a lot of people get mild traumatic brain injuries (MTBI), which are also called concussions or mild head injuries. These injuries can lead to things like headaches, feeling sick, dizziness and trouble thinking. The problem is that these issues can be subtle and not show up right away, making them hard to find using regular tests or brain scans. So, they suggested using a special test called Auditory Evoked Potentials (AEPs) to better understand what's happening in the brain and predict how well people with mild TBI might recover.

MT. Provencher, RM. Frank, DJ. Shubert, A. Sanchez, CP. Murphy and RD. Zafonte

(2019) talked about how concussions are quite common, but they are not easy to understand and treat because they are complicated. More and more-young people are getting concussions due to playing sports, and people are becoming more aware of them. The role of orthopaedic surgeons in handling concussions isn't very clear, but there is some information in existing studies that can help these surgeons when they deal with patients who have concussions.

W. Torregrossa, M. Torrisi, R. De Luca, C. Casella, C. Rifici, M. Bonanno,RS. Calabrò(2023) talked about how traumatic brain injuries (TBI) can affect thinking, behaviour, and emotions. They explained that evaluating these issues is important for patients. The tricky part is choosing the right tests to do this. They mentioned using different tests to check the level of alertness and thinking skills in patients, depending on the stage of their TBI. This helps doctors create personalized rehab plans for these patients who need special care.

3. OBJECTIVES:

This study paper's main goal is to explore the field of traumatic brain injury (TBI) and how neuropsychological evaluations are used to diagnose and treat the cognitive and emotional effects that follow such injuries. To illuminate the variety of circumstances in which TBIs arise: -

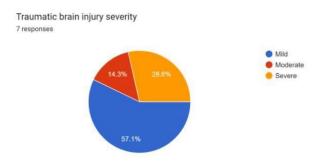


- Analyse the different types and causes of traumatic brain injuries (TBI) to understand their various circumstances.
- Investigate the wide range of symptoms experienced by individuals with TBIs, spanning from mild to severe, and explore the available treatments for managing these symptoms.
- Examine the extent of patient involvement in the neuropsychological assessment process, with a focus on whether the tests are tailored to the specific needs of TBI patients.
- Identify potential areas for improvement in patient-centred neuropsychological evaluations.
- Strive to enhance the standard of care and support provided to individuals dealing with the effects of TBI.

4. METHODOLOGY:

To gather information about various aspects of their experiences with traumatic brain injury and neuropsychological assessments, participants will fill out a structured survey with multiple-choice questions (MCQs). Participant's replies will be used to determine an individual score for each multiple-choice question (MCQ), which will allow for the capture of their distinct points of view. Each participant's composite score, which provides an overall picture of their perspective, will be generated by combining these results. To preserve participant's rights and privacy, ethical standards shall be scrupulously followed. Through a personalized scoring system, participant's experiences and viewpoints will be more fully understood, facilitating a more thorough examination of neuropsychological evaluations used in the treatment of traumatic brain injury.

5. ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION:



The responses we get from the above pie chart were distributed into 3 parts mild, moderate and severe.

Mild TBI: - 57.1% of the participants reported having a mild TBI. This shows that a significant portion of the individuals surveyed experienced less severe brain injuries, which often come with their own set of challenges and recovery processes.

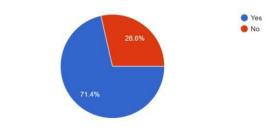
Moderate TBI: - 14.3% of respondents indicated that they had a moderate TBI. This is a

smaller percentage, it's important to note that moderate TBI can still lead to significant cognitive and emotional difficulties, warranting attention and care.

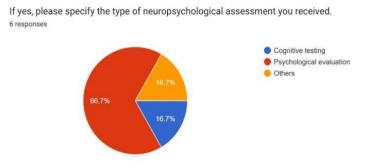
Severe TBI: - 28.6% of the participants reported experiencing a severe TBI. This shows a notable portion of the surveyed population and severe TBI are known to have the most profound impact on individual's lives, often requiring extensive medical intervention and support.



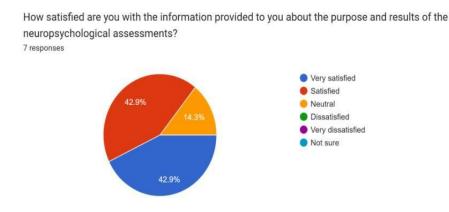
Have you undergone a neuropsychological assessment following your TBI diagnosis? 7 responses



The above data reveals that most participants, 71.4% answered "yes" indicating that these assessments are a common part of TBI diagnosis and care and in contrast, 28.6% answered "no" indicating that there is still a notable proportion that have not experienced such assessments.



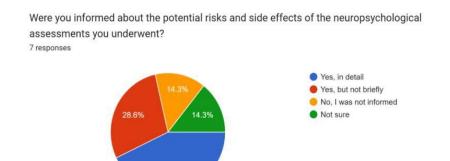
The above data illustrates that participants who answered "Psychological evaluation" represent the majority at 66.7%, which shows that a comprehensive evaluation of thoughts, feelings and behaviours is a prevalent choice among those who have undergone neuropsychological assessments. Further, 16.7% of respondents selected "Cognitive testing," which shows a focus on evaluating thinking and memory. An additional, 16.7% answered "Other" assessments, this indicates some variability in the types of assessments used, which could include specific or customized evaluations.



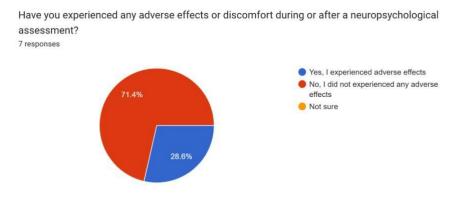
Based on the above data responses, and the satisfaction levels regarding the information provided about the purpose and results of neuropsychological assessments, it is noteworthy that the majority, 85.8% expressed positive sentiments. This shows 42.9% who were "very satisfied" and an equal percentage who were "satisfied". These high satisfaction levels indicate that a substantial portion of individuals who underwent assessments found the information to be clear, comprehensive, and satisfactory in meeting their expectations. In contrast, 14.3% expressed a "Neutral" sentiment, which shows a smaller proportion of individuals who may have felt neither particularly satisfied nor dissatisfied with the information provided, indicating room for potential improvement in communication and information delivery.

42.9%

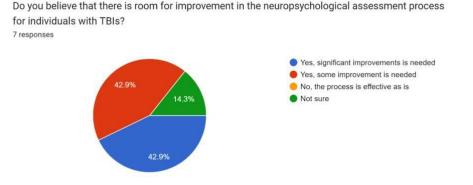




Based on the above data response about being informed regarding potential risks and side effects of neuropsychological assessments, it's notable that 42.9% reported that they were indeed informed in detail. This shows that a substantial number of individuals received comprehensive information regarding the assessment process. Additionally, 28.6% reported that they were informed but not in great detail, signifying that some room for improvement may exist in terms of the thoroughness of information delivery. Meanwhile, 14.3% stated that they were not informed about potential risks, and another 14.3% were unsure, indicating that there is potential for enhancing the transparency and communication of risks associated with neuropsychological assessments.



In this chart, we see that 28.6% of respondents reported that they did encounter adverse effects or discomfort during these assessments. On the other hand, the majority of the participants 71.4% stated that they did not experience any adverse effects or discomfort during or after the assessments. These findings underline the importance of ensuring that the assessment process is as comfortable and untroubled as possible for individuals, with particular attention to those who face challenges during the process.



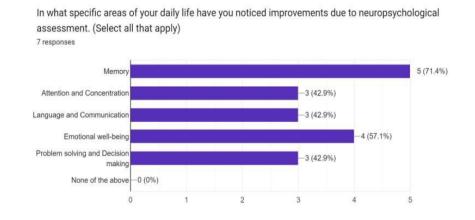
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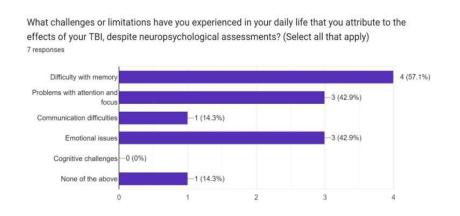
Most of the participants 42.9% expressed the view that there is a clear need for significant improvement in this assessment process. An equal percentage of 42.9% believed that while improvements are necessary, they may not be substantial. However, a smaller fraction, constituting 14.3% of respondents, remained uncertain about the need for improvement. These responses highlight the diverse opinions on the quality and effectiveness of the current assessment procedures for individuals with traumatic brain injuries.



On the above data responses revealed that a substantial proportion, around 28.6% felt that these assessments significantly aided them in addressing these challenges. A large segment, 57.1% of participants reported that these assessments were indeed helpful in managing cognitive and emotional difficulties. However, a smaller percentage 14.3% expressed a neutral stance, indicating a mixed impact or the need for more tailored support.



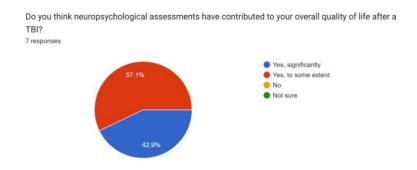
In this chart, we see that 71.4% of individuals reported enhanced memory. Additionally, 57.1% expressed improved emotional well-being, emphasizing the positive impact on their emotional state. Moreover, 42.9% of respondents noted betterment in their attention and concentration, language and communication skills, and problem-solving abilities.



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The majority of the participants 57.1% faced a most common issue was difficulty with memory. Problems with attention and focus, along with emotional issues, were reported by 42.9% of individuals, emphasizing the enduring impact of TBI on cognitive and emotional aspects. 14.3% of participants also faced communication difficulties, which highlights the diverse set of challenges that individuals with TBIs can face, where issues with effective communication can significantly impact their quality of life and interactions with others.

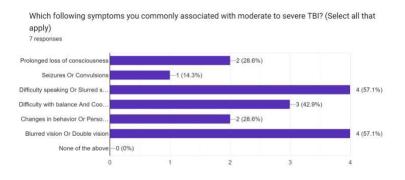


The majority of respondents 42.9% believed that neuropsychological assessments had significantly contributed to enhancing their overall quality of life after experiencing a traumatic brain injury (TBI). Additionally, 57.1% of participants acknowledged that these assessments had made a positive, albeit somewhat moderate, impact on their quality of life. This highlights the importance of continued support and development in this field.

Which following symptoms you commonly associated with mild TBI? (Select all that apply) 7 responses

Headache
Loss of consciousness
Memory problems
Nausea Or Vomiting
Dizziness Or Balance issue
None of the above
0 1 2 3 4 5 6

Most of the participants 85.7% face the most common symptom associated with mild traumatic brain injury (MTBI) is headache. Memory problems were also prevalent with 71.4% of participants identifying them. Nausea and vomiting along with dizziness and balance issues were each linked to mild TBI by 42.9% of respondents. Additionally, 28.6% associated a loss of consciousness with mild TBI. These insights shed light on the symptoms that individuals perceive as characteristic of mild TBI, emphasizing the need for thorough assessment and support for those experiencing these symptoms.



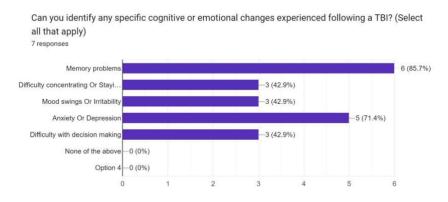
Respondents commonly associated several symptoms with moderate to severe traumatic brain injuries (TBI). Difficulty speaking or slurred speech, as well as blurred vision or double vision, were reported by 57.1% of participants. Difficulty

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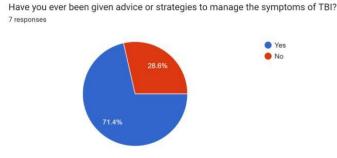
with balance and coordination was identified by 42.9% of respondents. Furthermore, 28.6% associated prolonged loss of consciousness and changes in behaviour or personality with moderate to severe. A smaller percentage, 14.3% linked seizures or convulsions to these severe forms of TBI.

Understanding these perceptions is crucial for tailored medical interventions and support strategies.



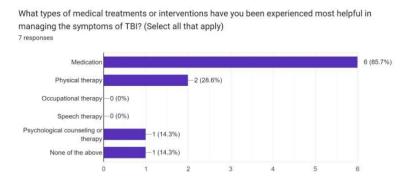
After experiencing a traumatic brain injury, respondents identified several cognitive and emotional changes. Memory problems were a common issue, reported by 85.7% of participants. Anxiety or depression also affected 71.4% of individuals' post-TBI.

Additionally, 42.9% struggled with difficulty concentrating or staying focused, experienced mood swings or irritability and found decision-making challenging. These findings the significant impact of TBIs on cognitive and emotional wellbeing, emphasizing the need for comprehensive support and interventions in these areas.



A majority of the participants, 71.4% indicated that they had received advice or strategies to manage the symptoms of their traumatic brain injuries (TBIs). This guidance and support have played a crucial role in helping individuals cope with the challenges and effects of their

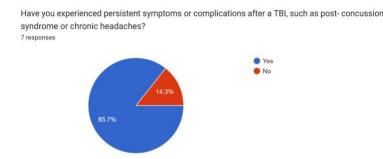
TBIs. However, it's noteworthy that 28.6% reported not receiving such advice, highlighting a need for broader access to strategies and recommendations for symptom management to enhance the well-being of TBI survivors.



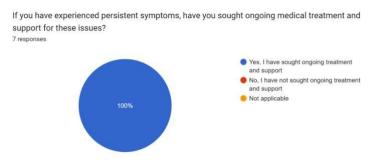
The most commonly reported medical treatment for managing the symptoms of traumatic brain injuries was medication, with 85.7% of respondents finding it helpful. However, it's important to note that a significant portion of the participants 28.6% also found physical therapy beneficial in their symptom management. A smaller percentage 14.3% sought support psychological counselling or therapy. Surprisingly, a similar percentage 14.3% did not opt for any of the mentioned



interventions, indicating the diversity of approaches and preferences in managing TBI symptoms. This highlights the importance of individualized care and treatment plans.



Most respondents 85.7% reported experiencing persistent symptoms or complications following a traumatic brain injury. These ongoing issues commonly included post-concussion syndrome or chronic headaches. Such prolonged symptoms can significantly impact one's quality of life and daily functioning, emphasizing the importance of continued medical attention and support. A smaller percentage 14.3% indicated that they had not encountered persistent symptoms, suggesting the variability in TBI outcomes. This highlights the need for personalized care and tailored treatment approaches based on individual needs and experiences.



All respondents 100% reported experiencing persistent symptoms following a traumatic brain injury (TBI), such as postconcussion syndrome or chronic headaches, have taken proactive steps to seek ongoing medical treatment and support. This demonstrates a strong commitment to managing and improving their condition, underscoring the importance of consistent medical care in addressing TBI-related challenges. Seeking continued treatment is vital for enhancing their overall quality of life and well-being, as it ensures that individuals with TBI receive the necessary support and interventions to cope with long-term symptoms effectively.

6. RESULT AND DISCUSSION:

The survey's findings indicated that various respondents' experiences with post-head injury brain function tests varied widely. While some were satisfied with the information they received regarding these exams, others weren't. This means that to ensure that everyone is aware of what is going on, physicians and other healthcare providers must provide clearer explanations. These tests proved to be quite beneficial for certain people, particularly in the areas of memory, emotions and problem-solving. However, some people found the tests difficult, which implies that the procedure has to be made safer and more comfortable.

Although there is still much space for improvement, the final results demonstrate that these tests can be helpful for a large number of individuals with brain injuries. Ensuring clear explanations of the tests and offering assistance might significantly impact an individual's recuperation. Since every person's experience is unique, it's critical to customize care for each individual.

7. CONCLUSION :

In conclusion, our research has examined the impact that brain injuries have on people's lives as well as how medical professionals use specialized testing to comprehend and assist these patients. We discovered that brain trauma can occur in a variety of ways and can result in cognitive and affective disorders. Physicians should provide clearer



explanations of these specialized tests since, although they can be beneficial, not everyone is familiar with them. We also observed that these assessments were quite helpful for memory and emotional problems for some of the participants. Some, meanwhile, thought the tests were a little challenging. This indicates that there is potential to improve the comfort and safety of these examinations.

Our study concludes that these assessments are helpful for a large number of individuals who have suffered brain injuries. We can significantly impact patient's recovery by providing better medical guidance, doing these tests with greater efficiency, and providing emotional support. Personalized care is essential to support each person on their recovery path because every person's experience is different. Our study aims to enhance the quality of life for individuals suffering from brain injuries by providing a more comfortable and seamless rehabilitation process.

Furthermore, our research highlights how important it is to respect each person's experience as unique and distinct. Since there are differences between every brain injury, we can provide care and support that is specific to the needs of everyone. By doing this, we can assist individuals who are recovering better and more successfully. It is our goal that by working with those who have suffered head injuries, we can help them live better lives and get the support and understanding they need as they attempt to recover and start again.

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