

population are difficult to accomplish. Therefore, the

were found between ToM and behavioural disturbance, Bach et al. (2006) report that impaired ToM should not be disregarded clinically as a contributor to behavioural disturbance. Statistical analysis supports this, seen in the high range of scores on ToM tasks.

The level of evidence offered by this study is moderate. However, selection bias and intrinsic limitations of case control studies reduce the clinical application of results.

Case Reports

Case reports are often necessary and beneficial to direct future research in rare and heterogeneous populations such as TBI. However, they are inherently limited in external validity, as inferences cannot be made from one case to a larger population.

Bach, Happe, Fleming, and Powell (2000) investigated ToM in a 59-year-old male following TBI who presented with significant cognitive and behavioural impairments. Based on their assessment and clinical observation, ToM was not impaired, and it was therefore concluded that ToM did not contribute to his disordered behaviour.

While the authors acknowledge the inherent limitations of a single case report design, the strength of evidence (either in support of their hypothesis or not) could have been improved with a case series design by incorporating multiple single case reports. While subject selection in case reports is often based on opportunistic selection, there are some problematic aspects in this particular case. Primarily, there is a lack of premorbid social and medical information. Furthermore, the subject reported a family history of psychiatric illness (others studies have included this as exclusion criteria). Finally, his premorbid personality (stubborn, difficulty maintaining relationships) decreases the ability of the study to attribute behavioural disturbance to TBI.

The methodology of this case report has strengths, including controls for non-mental inferencing in ToM tasks as well as the repeated measures of executive function and ToM at 6 months and 1-year post injury, which increase reliability. o stan fo , iherosominriteria)ndlomsk Trdeare ofnt wed

between impaired ToM and behavioural disturbance following adult TBI. In order to improve the level of evidence provided by the existed literature, it is recommended that future research take the following into consideration:

- a) Future research should employ study designs that offer a stronger level of evidence as well as larger sample sizes, such that results can be more appropriately applied to clinical practice.
- b) Non-mental inferencing tasks should be