



School of Psychology

MAJOR RESEARCH DISSERTATION

Quality of life and well-being after acquired brain injury: the role of social identity, use of coping strategies and cognitive functioning

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Target Journal: Neuropsychological Rehabilitation
Manuscript Word Count¹: 7897
Total word Count: 14,993

Submitted in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the Doctorate in
Clinical and Community Psychology.

May 2008

¹ As no word count is stipulated in the nominated journal, the maximum word count of 8,000 words for the manuscript and up to 15,000 with appendices is adhered to.

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank Dr Rachel Baron, my supervisor, who provided support and encouragement throughout this project, as well as her research knowledge and skills.

Dr Huw Williams and Dr Phil Yates have both provided their extensive knowledge and advice about head injury and have helped me to gain access to participants.

Thank you to Jonathan Blood-Symth from the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital, who has been crucial in accessing orthopaedic participants.

A big thank you to all those staff at Headway Devon, from senior management to volunteers; who all made me feel welcome and supported.

Of course many thanks to all those participants who took part, especially those from Headway, who taught me more about the lived experience of ABI than any books have done.

Finally, thank you to my fellow trainees for their words of support and encouragement and to my partner who provided the strength to help get through the tough times.

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Quality of life and well-being after acquired brain injury: the role of social identity, use of coping strategies and cognitive functioning

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ABSTRACT

Objective: The aim of this study was to examine the impact of social identity, coping style and cognitive impairment, on quality of life and well-being in a group of people with head injury compared to patients with chronic pain.

Design: A correlational design using sixty participants recruited from Devon was employed: thirty adults with acquired brain injuries (ABI) were recruited from a charity and thirty adults with chronic pain difficulties from a NHS pain management service.

Results: Analysis showed that there was little difference between the two groups on the variables measured. The role of social identity was not associated with better psychosocial outcome or coping style. Maladaptive coping strategies were associated with poorer adjustment in the ABI group and support-seeking strategies were correlated with improved outcomes in the chronic pain group. Objective neuropsychological variables were not associated with coping style, however, a relationship was observed between maladaptive coping styles and self-reported executive functioning.

Conclusions: The results add to the literature on social identity, coping and quality of life post-ABI including improved understanding of how cognitive impairment might influence the use of particular coping strategies. The findings are discussed in relation to improved interventions to increase the use of more adaptive coping strategies.