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POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER Factsheet

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How are cognitive failures related to PTSD?

Cognitive failures or “slips” are experienced by everyone from time to time and represent a brief lapse in concentration in real world settings. They are influenced by factors such as personality, mood, stress, and time of day. People with psychological disorders such as PTSD are thought to be more vulnerable to cognitive failures, possibly due to increased problems with related cognitive processing such as attention.

Several self-report tools have been developed to measure cognitive failures. One common tool is the Cognitive Failures Questionnaire (CFQ), which requires individuals to indicate how frequently they have experienced a list of minor perceptual, memory, and action failures in everyday life.

What is the evidence for cognitive failures in people with PTSD?

Moderate quality evidence finds increased severity of PTSD symptoms is related to more cognitive failures.

For more information see the technical table

HOW YOUR SUPPORT HELPS

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NeuRA (Neuroscience Research Australia) is one of the largest independent medical and clinical research institutes in Australia and an international leader in neurological research.

Diseases of the brain and nervous system pose the greatest health, economic and social burden of any disease group because they are chronic, debilitating and have no known cures.

Medical research is the cornerstone of efforts to advance the health and wellbeing of families and the community. Our dedicated scientists are focussed on transforming their research into significant and practical benefits for all patients.

While we hope you find this information useful, it is always important to discuss any questions about PTSD and its treatment with your doctor or other health care provider.