

EPP0972

Age-Related Differences in Reading Negative Texts on COVID-19

A. Popov¹, S. Tukaiev^{2*}, V. Rizun³, Y. Havrylets³, D. Ivaskevych³, A. Petrenko-Lysak⁴ and Y. Yachnik⁵

¹Department of Electronic Engineering, Igor Sikorsky Kyiv Polytechnic Institute, Kyiv, Ukraine; ²Faculty of Communication, Culture, and Society, Institute of Public Health, Università della Svizzera italiana, Lugano, Switzerland; ³Institute of Journalism, Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv, Kyiv, Ukraine; ⁴Department of Branch Sociology, Faculty of Sociology, Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv, Kyiv, Switzerland and ⁵University clinic, Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv, Kyiv, Ukraine

*Corresponding author.

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Introduction: The worldwide COVID-19 pandemic leads to the development of stress disorders, increased anxiety in the society. One of the strongest factors leading to the development of anxiety, stress in society during a pandemic is the Mass Media. The mechanisms of stressogenic effects of Mass Media remain not completely clear.

Objectives: The aim of this study was to evaluate age-specific characteristics of gaze behaviour related to the perception of anxiety-provoking information.

Methods: 189 volunteers took part in the study (164 participants aged between 17 and 22 years old (students, control group), 25 people aged between 59 and 71 (experimental group)). Participants were asked to fill in Psychological Stress Measure (PSM-25), Patient Health Questionnaire (PHQ-9), and Generalised Anxiety Disorder Assessment (GAD-7) questionnaires in order to determine their levels of stress, depression, and anxiety. The second stage of the research was an eye-tracking study of text perception - we analysed eye-tracking data during the text perception by using web-eye tracking (EyePass).

Results: To identify the relevance of COVID-19 information, we compared the perception of positive, neutral and negative texts and detected rather a negativity bias than attraction to the positive or neutral stimuli: fixations positive vs negative (p -value < 0.01), positive vs neutral (p -value < 0.01), neutral vs negative (p -value < 0.01). Under the competitive conditions (higher relevance of negative information during Pandemic) the perception of negative text is characterized by attentional priority. Moreover, it should be taken into account that highly anxious participants showed a negativity bias than attraction to the positive stimuli, and this is typical during quarantine.

Conclusions: Therefore, participants showed a negativity bias than attraction to the positive stimuli, and this is typical during quarantine. There are significant age-related differences in gaze behavior while reading text with negative text elements. While the origin of these differences between older and younger adults remains unknown, further research may provide more evidence about the origin of this effect.

Disclosure of Interest: None Declared

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Social and professional stigma during COVID-19 among healthcare workers in a Tunisian hospital

N. MECHERGUI¹, N. CHAOUECH², I. YOUSSEF¹, M. Mersni¹, D. BRAHIM¹, G. BAHRI¹, S. ERNEZ^{1*}, H. BEN SAID¹ and N. LADHARI¹

¹Charles Nicolle hospital and ²Habib Thameur hospital, Tunis, Tunisia

*Corresponding author.

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Introduction: Healthcare workers (HCWs) are on the front line in the management of the COVID-19 pandemic. They are at higher risk of acquiring SARS-CoV2 infection and might transmit the virus to other person or their family members. All these gave rise to stigma toward society, family, and HCWs.

Objectives: to measure social and professional stigma and guilty feelings among HCWs in a Tunisian hospital.

Methods: A cross-sectional study using a questionnaire (socio-demographic and professional characteristics and three questions (yes/no) related to social and professional stigma and guilty feelings) was conducted from September 1 to December 31, 2020, at Charles Nicolle hospital of Tunis. The survey was distributed among HCWs consulting the department of occupational health after a COVID-19 infection.

Results: A total of 259 HCWs were included in the study. The mean age was 41 ± 10 years with a sex ratio of 0.25. The HCWs were married in 66.8% of cases. The professional categories were represented mainly by nurses in 33.5% of cases followed by technicians and physicians in 26.2% and 17.4% of cases respectively. The average professional seniority was 13 years (min=1 year; max=13 years).

The social stigma was reported by 30.5% and professional stigma by 20.1%. The stigmatized population was predominantly female (86%), and the proportion of married people was 63%. The predominant professional category was nurses (36%) followed by senior technicians and workers (25% and 16% respectively). The average length of employment was 13 years. Guilt was felt by 57.1% of the cases.

Conclusions: Based on the results of this study, the social and professional stigma during COVID-19 among HCWs was significant as well as the feeling of guilt. This may have an adverse impact on HCWs' mental health.

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EPP0974

Attitudes towards vaccination of persons with mental disorders

S. Djordjevic*, L. Maodus and S. Kijac

Affective disorders, Special Hospital for Psychiatric Disease Kovin, Kovin, Cara Lazara 253, Kovin, Serbia

*Corresponding author.

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Introduction: The effects of the COVID 19 pandemic manifests in all segments of society, and they have special impact on the vulnerable population of persons with mental disorders. After two years of pandemic, the vaccines against COVID 19 are still the most