

UNIVERSITY OF  
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Dudley **NHS**  
Primary Care Trust

# U Assessing Anger B

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# Background

- There is a growing interest in the use of cognitive approaches for the treatment of psychological difficulties in people with intellectual disabilities.
- People with ID can have difficulties in managing their anger.
- This has led to the development of both group and individual treatment packages.

# Assessment of Cognitive Interventions

- ❑ Cognitive approaches lead to new challenges for the assessment of outcome.
- ❑ Conventionally outcome research has relied on external (informant) based approaches.
- ❑ Cognitive approaches aim to change the experience of individuals and assessment measures are more reliant on self report.
- ❑ Both informant and self report measures are likely to be useful in assessment.

# Previous Research

- Voelker et al (1990) found agreement between informants and self report for levels of adaptive behaviour but not challenging behaviour.
- Benson and Ivins (1992) found that staff tended to rate clients as more angry than they did themselves.
- Rose & West (1999) and Novaco & Taylor (2004) found a relationship between staff recorded challenging behaviour and self ratings.

# This Research

- Seeks to further examine the properties of a measure devised by Benson and Ivins and designed to assess the response to various provocations of individuals with ID.
- It also explores the utility of developing a similar measure to be rated by staff.

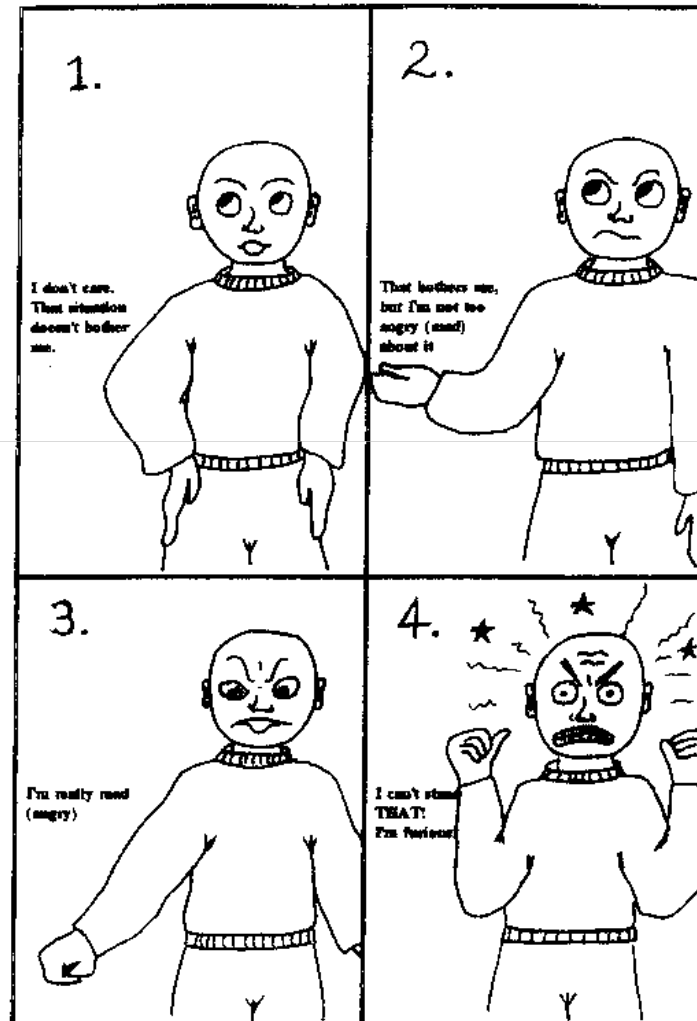
# Aims

- To start to develop the psychometrics of the measures.
- To compare self report and informant based measures of a provocation inventory.
- To compare a provocation inventory with a measure of challenging behaviour

# Study 1 - Method

- Cross sectional survey comparing responses on
  - Anger Inventory (AI) Benson & Ivins (1992)
  - Staff Anger Inventory.
  - Aberrant behaviour Checklist Community (ABC)
  - BPVS
  - Demographic Questionnaires

# AI Likert Scale



# Study 1 - Participants

- 31 Volunteers who have ID, asked to participate via residential or day services.
- Not specifically identified as having anger difficulties.
- 20 men, 11 women, mean age 39, 26% lived with family, 68% residential services.
- Mean raw score on BPVS 83.
- Support workers who had known the individuals for 6 months + completed the informant questionnaires

## Study 2

- Longitudinal Study comparing data collected at two different times by people with ID and a member of staff.
- Anger Inventory (AI) Benson & Ivins (1992)
- Staff Anger Inventory.
- Demographic Questionnaires
- ABC not completed.

## Study 2

- Subsample from a series of studies examining the efficacy of anger treatment (e.g. Rose, et al, 2000; Rose et al, 2005).
- Selection for this study was made on the basis of data being available for both service users and informants who knew them well before and after an intervention to reduce inappropriately expressed anger.

## Study 2 - Participants

- 57 participants
- Mean Age 38, 42 men and 15 women.
- Referred with difficulties in managing anger and participated in Anger management.
- 37% lived with their family, the remainder lived in residential accommodation with various degrees of support.
- Mean raw score on BPVS 69.

# Results – Study 1

- Alphas

- Self report AMI .928

- Informant AMI .880

- No relationship was found between the Self Report AMI and staff measures.

- Some correlations between staff measures

# Correlations between Staff and Client Reported Anger and Aberrant Behaviour Checklist Scores for Study 1.

Spearman's Rho		ABC SUBSCALES					
		ABC TOTAL	IRRITABILITY	LETHARGY	STEREOTYPY	HYPERACTIVITY	INAPPROPRIATE SPEECH
STAFF ANGER INVENTORY	Correlation Coefficient	<b>0.607*</b>	<b>0.616*</b>	0.282	<b>0.506*</b>	<b>0.532*</b>	0.114
CLIENT ANGER INVENTORY	Correlation Coefficient	-0.131	-0.125	-0.265	0.135	-0.08	-0.160

\* = significant to  $p < 0.01$ .

## Results – Study 2

- No correlation between measures at time 1 (prior to anger intervention).
- Post Intervention a correlation was found between the measures.

# Correlations between Client and Staff Reported Anger before and after Psychological Intervention

Pearsons Correlations	Pre group client and staff Anger Inv	Post Group client and staff Anger Inv
Total group	.012	<b>.420**</b>
Accompanied	.042	<b>.611**</b>
Unaccompanied	.002	.039

\*\* = P<0.01

# Discussion

- Internal consistency of the questionnaires is good.
- The initial relationship between the Staff AMI and ABC suggests that the staff are using their knowledge of participant challenging behaviour to complete the AMI.
- Both studies suggest that there is little relationship between client and staff perceptions of the impact of anger provoking situations.

# Discussion –Staff Issues

- The initial lack of a relationship between client and informant measures could be due to a number of staff factors.
- Informants only have limited information about the people they are rating.
- Staff do not understand clients from different perspectives (e.g. emotional).
- Training issues

# Discussion – Client Issues

- Alternatively, participants may have completed their version of the AMI inaccurately.
- However, the questionnaire does seem to have reasonable reliability and validity and has been used successfully in a number of studies

# Changes Post Intervention

- The correlations observed post intervention between staff and participant anger inventories is interesting.
- The differential effect between staff who support participants in treatment and those who do not also suggests that participation in treatment helps staff to gain a clearer understanding of clients difficulties and this may contribute to treatment efficacy.

□ Further information:

Rose, J.L. and Gerson, D.F. (2009) Assessing anger in people with intellectual disability, *Journal of Intellectual and Developmental Disability*, 34, 116-122.

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