Attention

Facts:

• As well as sensory features, pain also has emotional and cognitive aspects.

• Symptoms of pain are associated with a loss of concentration and ability to engage in tasks which require attention.

• Headache is a common painful complaint. An estimate of 38.7% of the population could be considered to have had headache symptoms within the previous 2 weeks.

Description:

We are investigating the effects of everyday headache pain on attention using the Bath Tests of Attention to Pain cognitive test battery (BathTAP2). These tasks have previously been used to examine the effects of experimental pain on cognition. Use of these tasks to assess cognitive performance for naturally occurring headache pain will inform about the relevance of previous experimental work and contribute to understanding how headache pain can impact everyday cognitive functioning.

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