

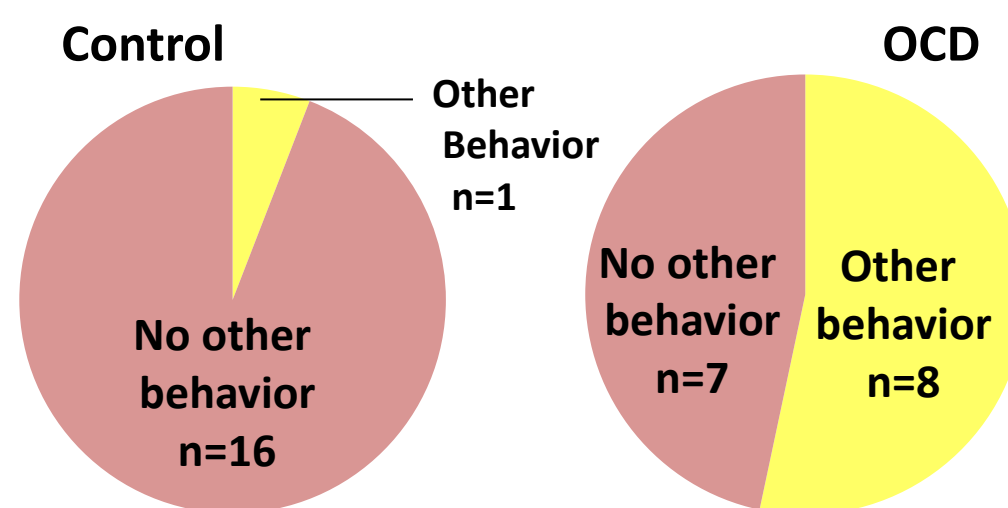
Obsessive Compulsive Disorder: Infusing Person-Environment Questions in Studies of Mental Health

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Introduction

- College of Design; Medical School; College of Science and Engineering
- Obsessive Compulsive Disorder (OCD) one of the world's top ten causes of disability
- OCD behaviors: obsessions about contamination and cleaning; checking, ordering, repeating rituals; hoarding habits

OCD subjects more likely to exhibit other behaviors when hand washing ($p=.005$)



Handwashing

Objectives

Analyze video recordings of children with OCD doing everyday tasks to:

- Better understand the role of the environment in OCD behaviors
- Develop knowledge contributing to diagnosis and treatment

Conclusions

Video recordings can:

- Act as alternative modes of representation
- Communicate multiple forms of knowledge
- Show stories and experiences not typically part of canon
- Add to our understanding of how placemaking is perceived and constructed



Arranging items on a table

Pilot Study Method

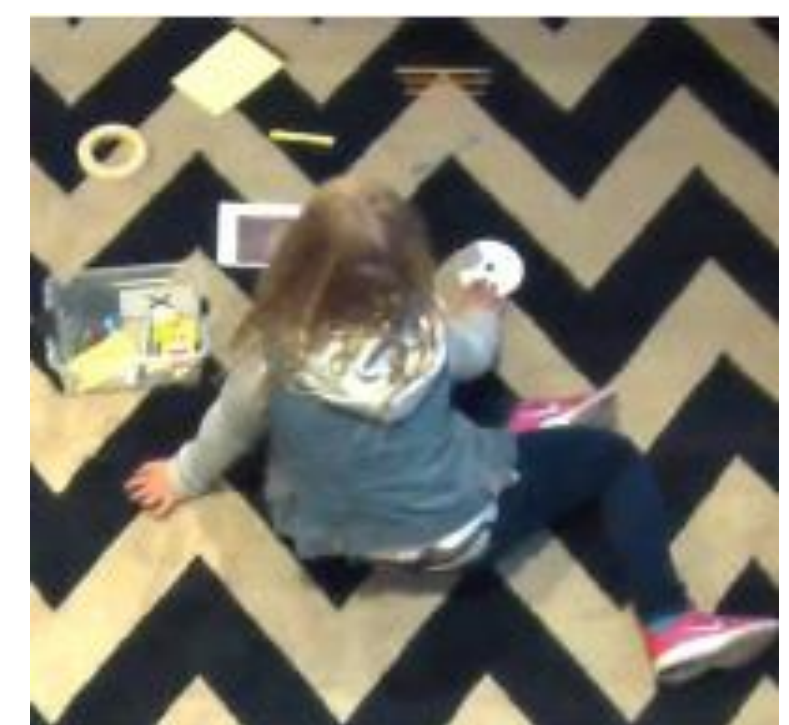
- 18 subjects with OCD/21 matched healthy controls (mean age 11.1)
- 4 environment-behavior tasks

Next Steps

- Delve into findings, e.g. why did children with OCD use less space?
- Focus on other aspects of OCD, e.g. hoarding
- Expand on use of computer software to automatically code videos

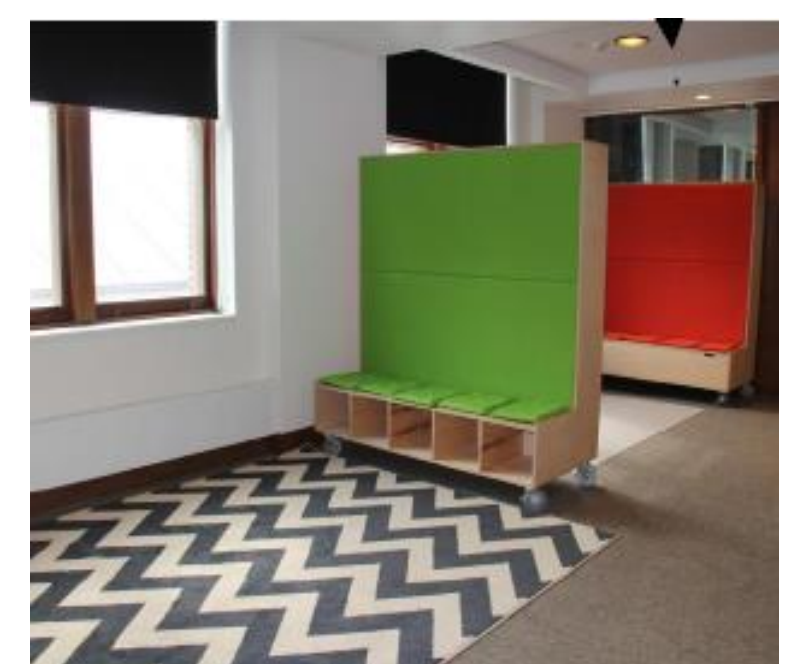
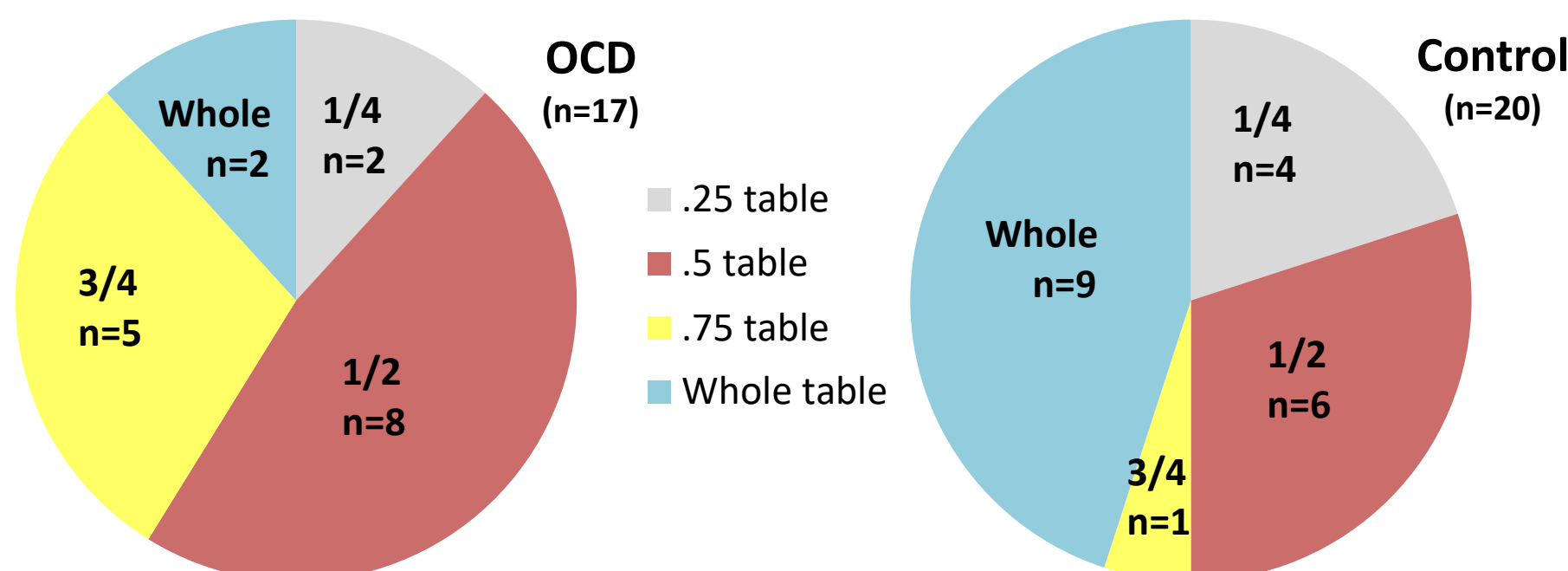
Significant Findings

- OCD subjects used less table space arranging than controls ($p=.049$)
- More severe OCD spent longer time hand washing
- Exhibited more other behaviors during hand washing, e.g. touching sink, drinking water ($p=.005$)



Arranging items on a pattern rug

OCD subjects used less space for arrangement than controls ($p=.049$)



Study laboratory