Psychiatric electroceutical interventions and their potential to influence personality: A cross-analysis of survey and interview results

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Introduction

Neurotechnologies have the potential to alter a patient’s personality or sense of self. Most concerns about this in the neuroethics literature are almost entirely focused on Deep Brain Stimulation (DBS); little discussion has occurred about other psychiatric electroceuticals interventions (PEIs) such as electroconvulsive therapy (ECT), transcranial magnetic stimulation (TMS), and adaptive brain implants (ABI). In addition, little is known about how these concerns differ across stakeholder groups.

Research Aims

Our study aims to improve our understanding of how psychiatrists, patients with depression, and the general public perceive the effects of PEIs on personality or sense of self.

Methods

Our study aims to improve our understanding of how psychiatrists, patients with depression, and the general public perceive the effects of PEIs on personality or sense of self. We included 16 psychiatrists, 1050 patients, and 1025 caregivers. We used surveys and interviews to collect data. The data was cross-analyzed to identify trends across stakeholder groups.

Results

The results showed that psychiatrists, patients, and the public had different perceptions of the potential effects of PEIs on personality and sense of self. For example, psychiatrists were more likely to believe that PEIs could have positive effects on personality, while patients and the public were more concerned about potential negative effects.

Discussion

We discusses several key findings from our study. First, we found that patients and the public were more concerned about potential negative effects of PEIs on personality and sense of self. Second, we found that psychiatrists were more likely to believe that PEIs could have positive effects on personality. Third, we found that there was a consistent trend across all stakeholder groups that PEIs could potentially alter personality or sense of self.

Future Steps

In the future, we plan to conduct further research to better understand the potential effects of PEIs on personality and sense of self. This could include additional surveys and interviews, as well as more detailed analysis of the data collected in our study.

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