

Assessing ADRC Staff Knowledge Of Alzheimer's, Dementia, And MCI: Gaps and Training Needs

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Background

- Research staff training often focuses on human subject protections, regulatory compliance, protocol adherence, and data integrity, with limited focus on disease processes in the clinical population of focus
- As clinical research staff are the face of the participant experience, expanding the disease-specific training they receive may present an opportunity to better serve research participants, and build a specialized workforce
- There is a precedent for assessing dementia and Alzheimer's disease (AD) knowledge amongst healthcare providers, family members, and caregivers of individuals with dementia¹⁻²
- However, formal AD & dementia knowledge assessment amongst research personnel has not been described
- This project will describe baseline data from a formal Alzheimer's and dementia knowledge assessment amongst staff at an AD research center (ADRC)

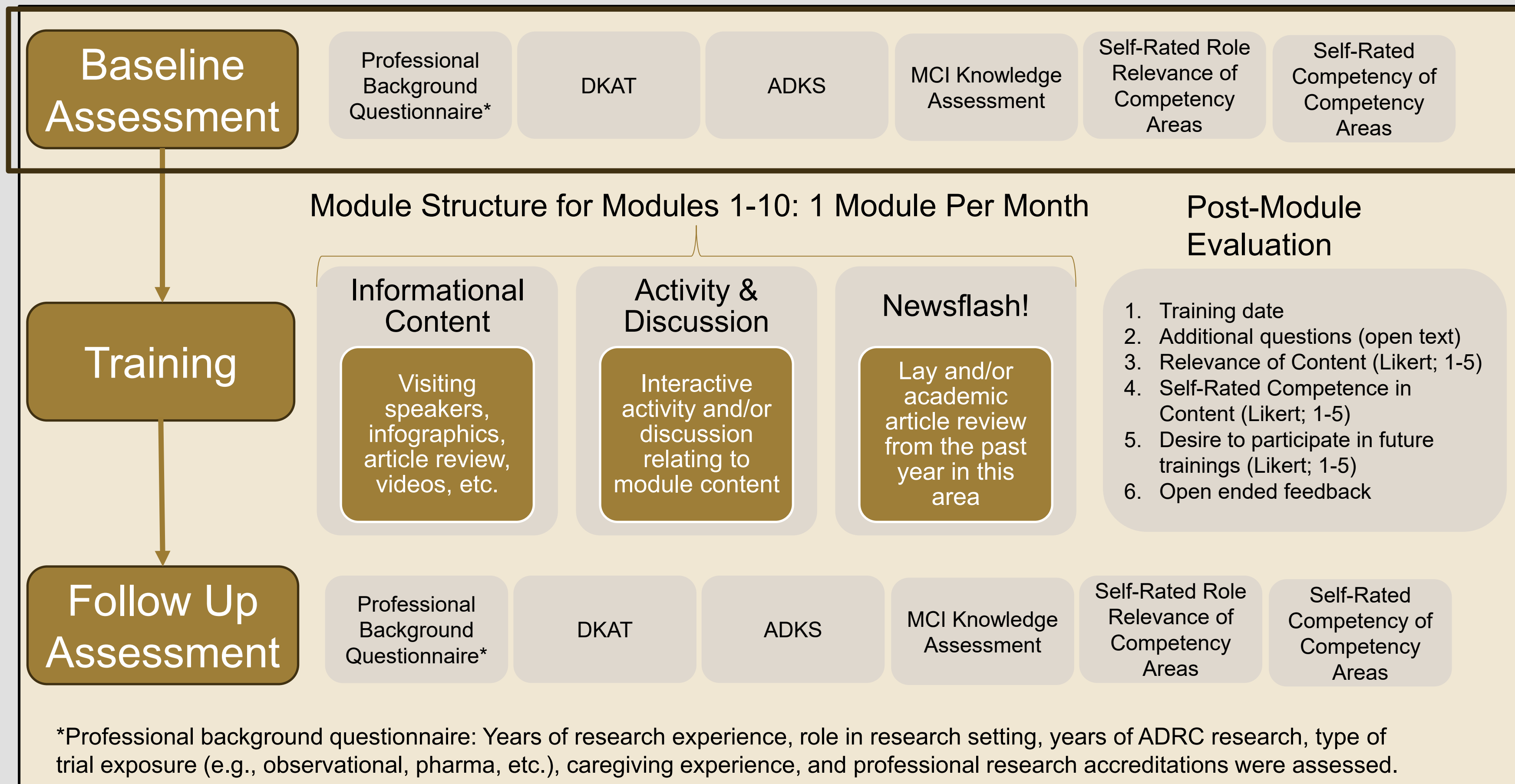
Subjects & Methods

- Twenty staff members completed the Dementia Knowledge Assessment Tool (DKAT)³ and Alzheimer's Disease Knowledge Scale (ADKS)⁴, and an assessment of mild cognitive impairment (MCI) knowledge
- Staff also completed self-ratings of competence (1=never exposed, 5=mastery) and role relevance (1=no relevance, 5=major part of responsibilities) in the content areas pertinent to AD and dementia
- Thirteen of the twenty staff members (65%) worked in directly participants-facing roles

Module Content Areas:

- | | | | | |
|-------------|------------------------|-----------------|---------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Dementia | 3. MCI/Preclinical AD | 5. Life Impact | 7. Symptoms | 9. Tx & Management |
| 2. AD | 4. Disease Progression | 6. Risk Factors | 8. Assessment & Diagnosis | 10. Caregiving |

Measures



Results

Table 1. Baseline Accuracy Percentages by Scale and Sub-Scores by Planned Module Content

Measure	Total Accuracy	% Correct by Module Content Area						
		Disease Progression	Life Impact	Risk Factors	Symptoms	Assessment & Dx	Tx & Mngmt	Care-giving
DKAT	79%	90%	85%	92%	78%	90%	75%	-
ADKS	77%	78%	85%	77%	80%	75%	76%	73%
MCI Knowledge Assessment	69%	56%	67%	79%	70%	78%	74%	-

Table 2. Baseline Self-Rated Role Relevance and Competence in AD/Dementia Topic Areas

Content Area	Relevance > Competence N (%)	Competence ≥ Relevance N (%)	Key training target areas where 40% or more of staff rate their competence as lower than the role relevance
General Dementia Knowledge	10 (50%)	10 (50%)	
Disease Progression	8 (40%)	12 (60%)	
AD Disease Knowledge	7 (35%)	13 (65%)	
Life Impact	7 (35%)	13 (65%)	
Risk Factors	7 (32%)	13 (68%)	
Symptoms	5 (25%)	15 (75%)	
Assessment and Diagnosis	5 (25%)	15 (75%)	
Treatment & Management	6 (30%)	14 (70%)	
Caregiving for AD	6 (30%)	14 (70%)	

Conclusions

- Findings will inform a targeted approach to enhancing ADRD knowledge among clinical research staff and improving support for research participants and their care partners.
- Results will also establish baseline metrics to assess changes in ADRD knowledge and self-rated competencies over time.
- Future direction: Expand assessment of staff across ADRD research sites to evaluate cross-site ADRD knowledge.

References

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