Predictors of Change in Life Skills in Schizophrenia after Cognitive Remediation

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Predictors of Change in Life Skills in Schizophrenia after Cognitive Remediation

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Abstract

Few studies have investigated predictors of response to cognitive remediation interventions in patients with schizophrenia. Predictor studies to date have selected treatment outcome measures that were either part of the remediation intervention itself or closely linked to the intervention with no studies investigating factors that predict generalization to measures of everyday life-skills as an index of treatment-related improvement. In the current study we investigated the relationship between four measures of neurocognitive function, crystallized verbal ability, auditory sustained attention and working memory, verbal learning and memory, and problem-solving, two measures of symptoms, total positive and negative symptoms, and the process variable of treatment intensity to change on a performance-based measure of everyday life-skills after a year of computer-assisted cognitive remediation offered as part of intensive outpatient rehabilitation treatment. Forty patients with schizophrenia or schizoaffective disorder were studied. Results of a linear regression model revealed that auditory attention and working memory predicted a significant amount of the variance in change in performance-based measures of everyday life skills after cognitive remediation, even when variance for all other neurocognitive variables in the model was accounted for. Stepwise regression revealed that auditory attention and working memory predicted change in everyday life-skills across the trial even when baseline life-skill scores, symptoms and treatment intensity variables were controlled. These findings emphasize the importance of sustained auditory attention and working memory for benefiting from extended cognitive remediation and suggest the addition of supplementary training in elementary attention and working memory skills prior to remediation in those patients unlikely to show benefit.

Key words: schizophrenia; cognitive remediation; neurocognition; treatment response.
1. Introduction

Over the past twenty years, incontrovertible evidence has shown that patients with schizophrenia show 1-2 standard deviation impairments on a variety of measures of neurocognitive function, including attention, episodic and working memory, language, and problem-solving relative to healthy, demographically matched controls (see Reichenberg & Harvey, 2007; Heinrichs & Zakzanis, 1998 for reviews). These deficits are present at disease onset (e.g., Saykin et al., 1994), stable over time (e.g., Gold et al., 1999; Hoff et al., 1999; Kurtz et al., 2005; Stirling et al., 2003), and are only modestly affected by pharmacologic intervention for symptoms (e.g., Keefe et al., 2007).

Particular significance has been attached to these deficits, as there are a growing number of studies showing that deficits in elementary neurocognitive function are linked to a variety of aspects of functional outcome and thus may contribute substantially to the profound social disability that frequently accompanies the disorder (e.g., Salkever et al., 2007). Reviews suggest that neurocognitive deficits explain 20-60% of the variance in studies of the ability to solve interpersonal problems, community (social and occupational) function and measures of skill acquisition in rehabilitation programs (see Green et al., 2000; Green et al., 2004 for reviews). Many of these studies also suggest that neurocognitive deficits are more closely linked to functional outcome than are psychiatric symptoms (e.g., Green et al., 2000). These results lend support to the contention that treatment targeted at attenuation of these deficits will produce improvements in related community function.

Over the past 10-15 years a rapidly growing number of randomized controlled studies have investigated the efficacy of a group of behavioral interventions, collectively labeled
cognitive rehabilitation, that are focused on improving neurocognitive function in persons with schizophrenia directly through repeated task practice and/or providing behavioral strategies to circumvent these deficits. Initial studies have yielded promising findings (e.g., Bell et al., 2001; Medalia et al., 2001), and meta-analyses of the extant literature have confirmed medium mean effect-sizes for this group of interventions (d=.41) when cognitive task performance is selected as an outcome measure (McGurk et al., 2007).

Judgments regarding the ultimate value of cognitive rehabilitation as a treatment strategy, however, will lie in its potential impact on outcome measures that represent a generalization of training effects to more molar measures of life function. While very small in number, initial studies of the ability of the effects of cognitive remediation to generalize to a variety of aspects of real-world functioning have been positive (e.g., McGurk et al., 2005), with meta-analyses revealing significant mean effect-sizes (d=.35), only slightly lower than those reported for cognitive outcome measures (McGurk et al., 2007).

Despite these positive group findings, results to date reveal substantial individual differences in response to cognitive remediation interventions. A recent summary of three cognitive remediation trials found improvement rates for a mixed group of psychiatric patients that ranged between 40-69% for individuals (Medalia & Richardson, 2005). Thus, determining the treatment process, neurocognitive or symptom factors that may predict a strong response to cognitive remediation will be crucial for matching patients to appropriate treatment and modifying extant treatments to treat individuals not currently benefiting from these treatments.

Only two studies, to our knowledge, have investigated baseline predictors of response to cognitive remediation interventions. Fiszdon et al (2005), studied 58 patients with schizophrenia and evaluated the relationship of demographic, symptom, process and neurocognitive variables
to the probability of showing normalized performance (improvement to within 1 SD of healthy control performance) after training on a memory task that served as an element of a comprehensive, computer-assisted remediation program. The authors’ hypothesized that stronger sustained vigilance at study entry would predict a greater likelihood of normalized performance after the remediation intervention. As predicted, results revealed that sustained visual vigilance, along with immediate verbal memory, time between termination of intervention and follow-up assessment, and measures of hostility accounted for 70% of the variance in chances of normalization on the selected memory task in this cognitive remediation protocol.

Medalia and Richardson (2005) have reported that motivation, as indexed by voluntary participation in cognitive remediation sessions (treatment intensity), along with work style, and clinician experience were most closely linked to a positive response to cognitive remediation treatment. Neurocognitive measures of sustained attention, but not processing speed, working memory and immediate story recall were also related to improvement across several mixed samples of psychiatric in and outpatients. Improvement in the study was measured by standardized neurocognitive measures distinct from the Neuropsychological and Educational Approach to Remediation (NEAR) treatment program employed in the study. Patients were classified as “improved” if they improved on any measure of neurocognitive function to a degree that could have occurred by chance only 5 times or less out of 100.

Taken together, these findings suggest that treatment intensity, along with sustained attention, predict response to remediation interventions when outcome is indexed as either an improvement on tasks trained in the remediation protocol, or neuropsychological measures distinct from those trained in remediation. No study, to our knowledge, has focused on predictors of generalization of improvement of cognitive remediation interventions to measures
of capacity-based everyday functioning in a diagnostically homogenous group of patients with schizophrenia. The goal of the current study then was to evaluate the relationship of neurocognitive, treatment, and symptom variables to improvement on a measure of functional capacity across an extended period of cognitive remediation treatment. We predicted that baseline neurocognitive status and treatment intensity, but not symptoms, would predict change in functional capacity across the treatment trial.

2. Methods

All study procedures met with institutional ethical approval. Patients who agreed to take part in the study gave written, informed consent at the time of their entry to outpatient rehabilitation and were randomly assigned to one of two computerized cognitive rehabilitation groups (cognitive remediation or computer-skills training). The results comparing the relative effects of these interventions on neuropsychological test performance in a subset of the patients described in this paper were previously reported (Kurtz et al., 2007). A subset of the current results were also described as a part of a study of improvement in functional capacity as a function after intensive rehabilitation treatment (Kurtz et al., 2008). With the collection of additional data in the present paper we describe results from only those individuals randomly assigned to the cognitive remediation treatment condition of the parent study. Cognitive remediation procedures were identical to those described previously (Kurtz et al., 2007) and consisted of an extended program of computer-assisted, drill-and-practice exercises carefully titrated for task difficulty and organized hierarchically. Cognitive remediation was provided in addition to other day-program rehabilitation activities.

2.1 Participants: Forty outpatients meeting DSM-IV (APA, 1994) criteria for schizophrenia or schizoaffective disorder as determined by the Structured Clinical Interview for DSM-IV (First et
al., 1995) participated. Exclusion criteria for patients included auditory or visual impairment, evidence of mental retardation as indicated by a history of services evident from the medical record, traumatic brain injury with a sustained loss of consciousness, presence or history of any neurologic illness, lack of proficiency in English, and/or criteria met for concurrent substance abuse or dependence. Recruitment for the study was continuous, over a period of seven years (2001-2008) and occurred at three sites. The majority of patients in the study (n=35) were recruited from and enrolled in an intensive outpatient program for patients with schizophrenia at The Institute of Living, Hartford Hospital’s Mental Health Network (IOL) in Hartford, CT and two smaller cohorts were recruited from social clubs at community mental health centers in Meriden, CT (n=4) and East Hartford, CT (n=1). Clients were assessed at the termination of the computer interventions, a mean 11.5 months (SD: 5.0) after study entry. Patients who completed a minimum of 15 hours of computer training were included in the results. Patients treated at The IOL were enrolled in a three-day per week program including structured group therapy, life-skills training, and exercise, whereas clients at the other two community mental health sites typically attended social clubs on a daily basis, but participated in a more limited set of group activities (e.g., daily food preparation). Demographic and clinical characteristics of the sample are presented in Table 1.

2.2 Neurocognitive Measures: Patients were assessed before cognitive remediation on a neuropsychological test battery. To reduce elevation of Type I error in the current study, measures of crystallized verbal intelligence, sustained auditory attention and working memory, verbal learning and memory, and problem-solving were selected. Measures of neurocognitive function were chosen based on their relationships reported in the literature to either cognitive remediation specifically, or psychosocial rehabilitation more generally. Sustained attention and
verbal learning and memory were selected in light of their reported relationship to progress on specific elements of neurocognitive training in previous studies (Fiszdon et al., 2005; Medalia & Richardson, 2005) as well as skills training programs more generally (Smith et al., 2002), while problem-solving was selected in light of its observed relationship to outcome following supported employment rehabilitation interventions (McGurk et al., 2003). Neurocognitive testing and scoring was supervised by a doctoral-level psychologist. Measures of crystallized verbal IQ were included to ensure that links between specific neurocognitive functions and improvement in daily living skills after cognitive remediation could not be attributed to more global indices of verbal IQ.

2.2.1 The Vocabulary subtest from the WAIS-III (Wechsler, 1997): An oral measure of word knowledge was used as an estimate of crystallized verbal ability. Total scores were selected as the dependent measure.

2.2.2 Digit Span (WAIS-III; Wechsler, 1997): A measure of sustained auditory attention and immediate verbal memory in which participants are asked to repeat serially presented numbers either forwards or backwards. Raw total number correct was calculated as a dependent variable.

2.2.3 California Verbal Learning Test-II (CVLT-II; Delis et al., 2000): This is a list learning task in which 16 words from 4 semantic categories are read to the subject over a series of 5 list presentations. This test measures verbal learning, verbal memory and semantic organization. The learning slope across 5 trials was selected as the dependent measure as it reflects the average number of new words per trial that an examinee is able to recall, and thus provides a direct index of the ability of the participant to benefit from repetition of verbal information. Long-delay free recall raw scores were also selected to assess verbal episodic memory.
2.2.4 *Penn Conditional Exclusion Test* (PCET; Kurtz et al., 2004a, 2004b): The PCET is a measure of problem-solving. Results from several studies have shown evidence of construct validity in samples of healthy people (Kurtz et al., 2004a) and patients with schizophrenia (Kurtz et al., 2004b) for this task. The PCET requires the participant to select out one of four items based on one of three sorting principles. Participants must infer the sorting rule based on feedback to their responses. When the participant gets 10 consecutive correct responses, the sorting principle shifts and there are a total of three sorting principles. Total errors were selected as a dependent measure.

2.3 *Symptom Measures:* The Positive and Negative Syndrome Scale (PANSS; Kay et al., 1987) was used to assess symptoms at entry to the study. This measure is a semi-structured interview that generates ratings of signs and symptoms on 30 7-point Likert scale items. Symptom raters for the study maintained inter-rater reliability through periodic rater training sessions, and all raters were trained to a criterion reliability of .8 intraclass correlation coefficient (ICC), across four jointly viewed, but independently rated interviews. The subscales for total positive and total negative symptoms were selected as dependent measures.

2.4 *Process Variables:* We measured treatment intensity by average number of hours of cognitive remediation completed per month.

2.5 *UCSD Performance-Based Skills Assessment* (UPSA; Patterson et al., 2001): This standardized, performance-based instrument of everyday function provides information regarding patients’ ability to plan trips to the beach and zoo (recreation planning), count out and provide change using actual domestic currency and write checks for bills (finance), ask for information and reschedule a doctor’s appointment via the telephone (communication), plan a bus trip on the local bus system using relevant maps (mobility), and identify items necessary for
a recipe that are missing from a simulated pantry (household management). Each of the five
subscales was scored on a 1-20 scale, thus summing subtest scores results in a total score on a
scale of 0 to 100. Recent studies have supported the ecological validity of the UPSA in patients
with a primary psychotic disorder, showing that UPSA performance is closely related to a
caretaker measure of physical functioning, personal care skills, interpersonal skills, social
acceptability, community activity and work skills (Bowie et al., 2006), as well as actual
residential independence (Mausbach et al., 2008).

2.5 Data Analysis: Only participants with complete neuropsychological and symptom data at
entry and functional capacity measures at the follow-up assessment were included in the
analysis. Data were evaluated for normality. In no case was there evidence that variables
included in the study violated the assumptions underlying the use of parametric statistical
procedures. We investigated relationships between neurocognitive, symptom and process
measures to functional status during the intervention in three steps. In the first step we computed
partial correlation coefficients between positive and negative symptoms, the process variable of
treatment intensity (hours/month), crystallized verbal ability (Vocabulary subtest of the WAIS-
III), sustained auditory attention (Digit Span), verbal learning and memory skills (learning slope
and free recall from the CVLT-II), and problem-solving ability (PCET errors) and performance-
based functional status (UPSA) at the termination of the computer remediation treatment while
controlling for differences in baseline performance-based functional status scores.

In a second step, we conducted a multiple regression analysis in which we included
baseline performance-based functional capacity measures and all neurocognitive variables that
showed a relationship to performance-based functional status at the termination of the treatment
trial in the correlational analysis. These variables were entered in a single-step in order to
determine which neurocognitive variables explained the most variance in measures of functional capacity when other variance attributable to neurocognitive test performance was controlled.

In the third step, in order to evaluate the relative role of symptoms, treatment process variables and sustained auditory attention for predicting change in performance-based functional status across the remediation trial, we conducted a second multiple regression analysis using a stepwise entry procedure in which baseline performance-based functional capacity scores were entered in a first step, symptoms were entered in a second step, treatment intensity in a third step and auditory attention and working memory (Digit Span) was entered in a fourth step.

By including baseline measures of performance-based functional status in both regression equations, variance attributable to this measure was removed from post-treatment measures of performance-based functional status. In this way, all observed relationships between neurocognitive, treatment and symptom variables in the regression could be attributed to change in performance-based functional status across the 1-year cognitive remediation trial. To facilitate understanding of results, those variables in which higher scores indicated poorer performance or a greater number of symptoms were multiplied by -1. Alpha was set at .05 and all statistical tests were two-tailed.

3. Results

As can be seen in Table 2, partial correlations controlling for baseline differences in UPSA total and subtest scores showed that of the neuropsychological measures, the Vocabulary subtest from the WAIS-III at study entry was associated with total scores \( r = .35 \), and the Transportation \( r = .38 \) subtest from the UPSA, while Digit Span was associated with total scores \( r = .44 \) as well as Transportation \( r = .37 \) and Communication \( r = .33 \) subtest scores on the UPSA after cognitive remediation treatment. Learning slope and free recall scores from the CVLT-II
were related to Recreation subtest scores ($r=.43$ and $r=.32$, respectively) but not total scores. Treatment intensity and symptom variables were not related to UPSA scores at the termination of remediation intervention.

To further clarify the relationship of baseline neurocognitive test performance to change in functioning after cognitive remediation treatment, we entered baseline performance on the UPSA and each of the neurocognitive variables (Vocabulary and Digit Span scores) that were related to total scores on the UPSA at treatment termination from our correlational analysis into a multiple linear regression equation. The model, which partitions mutually exclusive components of the overall variance for each variable, explained 46% of the variance in total UPSA scores at the end of the treatment trial ($R^2=.46$, $F[3,33]=11.11$; $p<.001$). Higher baseline total scores on the UPSA ($B=.35$, $t=2.45$; $p<.05$) and higher Digit Span scores from the WAIS-III ($B=.37$, $t=2.69$; $p<.05$) independently predicted UPSA change scores after treatment in the context of Vocabulary scores. Lastly, the results of stepwise regression of baseline functional capacity score (step 1), symptoms (step 2), treatment intensity measures (step 3) and digit span (step 4) are presented in Table 3. In the first three steps 47% of the variance is explained. With the addition of digit span an additional 12% of variance was explained. In this last step only baseline UPSA performance and digit span predicted UPSA at study termination. Thus, here again is evidence of the association between digit span prior to treatment and improvements in post-intervention functional status scores, even when variance for baseline functional capacity measures, symptoms and treatment intensity were accounted for.

4. Discussion

This is among the first studies, to our knowledge, to investigate the relative role of several domains of neurocognition, symptoms and treatment intensity for prediction of
generalization of the effects of cognitive remediation to a measure of performance-based
instrumental-life skills. These results demonstrate in a longitudinal design that neurocognitive
skills predicted change in functional status after a one-year course of cognitive remediation in
patients even when variance attributable to symptoms, baseline life-skill scores and treatment
intensity was controlled. More specifically, analysis of individual neurocognitive measures
showed that while measures of crystallized verbal intellectual function and auditory sustained
attention and working memory were both linked to functional status after the rehabilitation trial,
only auditory sustained attention and working memory were linked to change in life-skill scores
when other neurocognitive variables were accounted for. Thus the observed link between
auditory sustained attention and working memory remained a significant predictor of change in
functional status when estimates of crystallized verbal IQ were controlled, ensuring that these
findings were not an epiphenomenon of individual differences in global, verbal IQ. Measures of
positive and negative symptoms, verbal learning and memory, and treatment intensity were not
related to change in functional status after outpatient rehabilitation. These findings are
particularly salient in that they do not simply suggest a link between neurocognitive skill and
functional status, but instead suggest which cognitive skills are most predictive of the ability of
patients with schizophrenia to capitalize on cognitive remediation programs consisting of
computer-administered, extended drill-and-practice cognitive exercises organized hierarchically
from simpler to more complex neurocognitive functions.

Studies of predictors of response to cognitive remediation interventions to date in patients
with schizophrenia are very small in number and have studied outcome measures that were a
component of the remediation intervention itself (Fiszdon et al., 2005), or have used
heterogeneous samples that have included people with schizophrenia along with other diagnostic
groups (Choi & Medalia, 2005; Medalia et al., 2005). Thus, an important feature of the current findings is that they provide a window on predictors of change as a function of remediation treatment on the ability to conduct basic life-skill tasks that are distal from the site of the remediation intervention in a homogenous sample of patients with schizophrenia/schizoaffective disorder.

One interpretation of the current findings is that impairment in basic sustained auditory attention and working memory interferes with the ability to learn cognitive tasks in cognitive remediation, making acquisition of skills slower and more laborious than patients with intact sustained auditory attention. In turn, slower task acquisition may engender frustration, increased error monitoring and poorer self-esteem, also interfering with acquisition of cognitive skills. These findings also suggest that the integrity of simple aspects of neurocognition are crucial for acquisition of more complex, multifactorial neurocognitive skills trained in this type of comprehensive, hirerarchically organized, sustained remediation intervention.

We note that the failure to find effects of treatment intensity on outcome of cognitive remediation in the current report is discrepant from those reported by Choi and Medalia (2005). Two explanations for the source of this inconsistency in findings may be advanced. First, differences in proximity of outcome measures to the cognitive intervention selected for these respective studies may have lead to differing results. In the Choi and Medalia study, intensity was linked to performance on a test of clerical skill that was closely allied with measures of sustained visual attention. Measures of work function, considerably more distal from the site of the cognitive intervention, did not show effects of treatment intensity. Similarly, the performance-based measure of everyday life-skills selected for the present study can be considered moderately distal from the target of the remediation intervention and thus, perhaps,
less sensitive to the effects of remediation. Second, variation in treatment intensity was more restricted in the current study (mean=5.0 hours/month, SD=2.4) and the vast majority of participants in the current study would have been classified as “low intensity” in that study. Effects of treatment intensity might become evident with a subsample of patients receiving higher intensity treatment.

Several caveats to the current findings should be noted. First, the results of this study are of a group that provides guidance on which neurocognitive variables may be linked to change in functional status as a result of remediation, rather than how these variables impact functional status (i.e., whether sustained auditory attention has a direct or indirect effect on change in functional status). Larger sample sizes, coupled with the inclusion of additional, potential mediating variables, would be necessary to address these questions. Second, some clinical researchers argue that meaningful clinical change on an outcome variable occurs when performance is elevated to a level after treatment that is indistinguishable from healthy controls (e.g., Kendall & Grove, 1988). The absence of data on the UPSA from a demographically-matched, healthy control group precluded measurement of task normalization. Third, the current sample size of 40 participants is modest for a multiple regression analysis, and important relationships between study variables and changes in performance-based functioning as a result of rehabilitation may have been overlooked as a consequence. Fourth, cognitive remediation was not offered as a stand-alone treatment, but was administered as part of a more generalized outpatient rehabilitation program that included group therapy and daily goal formulation, as well as vocational counseling, exercise and individual therapy. Thus, as an observational study, predictors of change in functional capacity in this treatment trial could be linked to these other interventions in addition to cognitive remediation. Lastly, measures of performance-based
everyday life skills have been criticized for serving as simply more ecologically-valid measures of neurocognitive skill, and thus links between neurocognitive skill and these measures may represent an artifact of method variance. Nonetheless, we note that while performance-based measures of everyday life skills undoubtedly require a host of neurocognitive skills, including sustained attention, memory and problem-solving, we have documented a selective relationship between only one aspect of neurocognition, auditory sustained attention and working memory, and the relationship was not with absolute level of everyday life skills but rather in change in everyday life skills over the course of a specific intervention.

In summary, these results emphasize the importance auditory sustained attention and working memory as a predictor of acquisition of everyday life-skills for patients with schizophrenia enrolled in sustained programs of outpatient cognitive rehabilitation. These findings suggest that for patients with greater levels of impairment in auditory attention and working memory, evidence-based behavioral interventions designed to enhance elementary attention skills (e.g., Silverstein et al., 2008) prior to administration of the type of comprehensive, hierarchically organized cognitive remediation interventions described in the current study may enhance the ability of this subgroup of patients to profit.
References


Table 1. Mean demographic and clinical characteristics of schizophrenia patients (n=40).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>Mean (SD)</th>
<th>Range</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age</td>
<td>33.5 (11.3)</td>
<td>19-59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent male</td>
<td>70</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>13.6 (2.0)</td>
<td>9-18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duration of Illness (years)</td>
<td>9.0 (8.5)</td>
<td>1-31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age of onset (years):</td>
<td>25.0 (7.6)</td>
<td>13-42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of hospitalizations</td>
<td>4.1 (3.6)</td>
<td>0-13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vocabulary Scaled Score (WAIS-III)</td>
<td>10.3 (4.0)</td>
<td>1-18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of training hours</td>
<td>54.5 (27.7)</td>
<td>15-116</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent treated with atypical antipsychotic medication</td>
<td>100</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: WAIS-III=Wechsler Adult Intelligence Scale.
Table 2. Partial correlations between clinical and neurocognitive variables at study entry, measures of treatment intensity, and performance-based functioning (total and subtests) at termination of the cognitive remediation intervention controlling for baseline performance-based functioning (total and subtests).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable (Mean +/- SD)</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Recreation</th>
<th>Finance</th>
<th>Transport</th>
<th>Commun</th>
<th>House</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Treatment Intensity (Hours per Month)</td>
<td>5.0 (2.4)</td>
<td>-.20</td>
<td>-.09</td>
<td>.10</td>
<td>-.18</td>
<td>-.22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Positive Symptoms PANSS</td>
<td>19.0 (5.9)</td>
<td>-.03</td>
<td>-.21</td>
<td>-.01</td>
<td>.04</td>
<td>-.23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Negative Symptoms PANSS</td>
<td>19.4 (5.0)</td>
<td>.05</td>
<td>.05</td>
<td>.04</td>
<td>.07</td>
<td>-.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vocabulary (WAIS-III)</td>
<td>41.2 (15.2)</td>
<td>.35*</td>
<td>.19</td>
<td>.25</td>
<td>.38*</td>
<td>.29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Digit Span</td>
<td>15.1 (4.2)</td>
<td>.44*</td>
<td>.29</td>
<td>.27</td>
<td>.37*</td>
<td>.33*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Learning Slope (CVLT-II)</td>
<td>1.1 (.69)</td>
<td>.22</td>
<td>.43*</td>
<td>.10</td>
<td>.14</td>
<td>.24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Long Delay Free Recall (CVLT-II)</td>
<td>7.4 (3.2)</td>
<td>.03</td>
<td>.32*</td>
<td>.01</td>
<td>.01</td>
<td>-.07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PCET errors</td>
<td>53.6 (32.1)</td>
<td>.23</td>
<td>.10</td>
<td>.11</td>
<td>.28</td>
<td>.20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: UPSA=UCSD Performance-Based Skills Assessment; PANSS=Positive and Negative Syndrome Scale; WAIS-III=Wechsler Adult Intelligence Scale; CPT=Continuous Performance Test; CVLT-II=California Verbal Learning Test-II; PCET=Penn Conditional Exclusion Test; Comm=Communication subtest from the UPSA; House=Household Management subtest from the UPSA. *p<.05;
Table 3. Results of hierarchical block regression predicting UPSA total score at termination of the cognitive remediation trial.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>B</th>
<th>t-value</th>
<th>p-value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Step 1</strong>&lt;sup&gt;a&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baseline UPSA</td>
<td>.62</td>
<td>4.46</td>
<td>&lt;.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Step 2</strong>&lt;sup&gt;b&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baseline UPSA</td>
<td>.61</td>
<td>4.17</td>
<td>&lt;.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Positive Symptoms (PANSS)</td>
<td>-.03</td>
<td>-.21</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Negative Symptoms (PANSS)</td>
<td>.04</td>
<td>.27</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Step 3</strong>&lt;sup&gt;b&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baseline UPSA</td>
<td>.59</td>
<td>4.24</td>
<td>&lt;.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Positive Symptoms (PANSS)</td>
<td>.00</td>
<td>.03</td>
<td>.978</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Negative Symptoms (PANSS)</td>
<td>.10</td>
<td>.70</td>
<td>.490</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treatment Intensity</td>
<td>-.30</td>
<td>-2.13</td>
<td>.042</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Step 4</strong>&lt;sup&gt;c&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baseline UPSA</td>
<td>.49</td>
<td>3.93</td>
<td>.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Positive Symptoms (PANSS)</td>
<td>-.07</td>
<td>-.53</td>
<td>.600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Negative Symptoms (PANSS)</td>
<td>.07</td>
<td>.56</td>
<td>.578</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treatment Intensity</td>
<td>-.18</td>
<td>-1.40</td>
<td>.174</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Digit Span</td>
<td>.38</td>
<td>2.92</td>
<td>.007</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<sup>a</sup>R²=.38, F=19.91, df=1, 32, p=.001  
<sup>b</sup>R²=.39, F=6.28, df=3, 30, p<.005  
<sup>c</sup>R²=.47, F=6.40, df=4, 29, p<.005  
<sup>d</sup>R²=.59, F=8.16, df=5, 28, p<.001  

**Note:** UPSA=UCSD Performance-Based Skills Assessment (UPSA); PANSS=Positive and Negative Syndrome Scale.