Abstract

Functional analyses allow a clinician to identify causal relations between environmental stimuli and problem behavior. Recent developments in functional analysis methodology have been devoted to creating practical procedures that can be conducted in a brief period of time. However, the extent to which improvements in analytic efficiency affect treatment outcomes have yet to be fully explored. We conducted a consecutive case series with 13 individuals who exhibited problem behavior. The participants experienced a comprehensive assessment and treatment program beginning with a functional analysis using 3-min sessions and ending with functional communication training and delay/denial tolerance training. Results demonstrated near elimination of problem behavior by the terminal treatment goal for all participants. This suggests that a clinician can still successfully treat problem behavior following relatively rapid assessment periods.

Keywords: analytic efficiency, functional analyses, functional communication training, problem behavior, reinforcement thinning