
Gist, Intuition, and Risky Decision Making in Healthcare

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Gist-based Intuition: Adaptive Cognition

- Dual memories: *Independent* verbatim and gist memory faculties, separate from strategies
- Dual processes: Judgments and decisions
- **Aging as expertise**
 - Gist-based intuition *preserved* in aging
 - No backup! Effective use of gist is crucial
 - Health decisions: Risk and uncertainty
- Essential next steps
 - Measures that predict impairment and assess effectiveness of interventions
 - Process-level theory to improve functioning: Cognitive prosthesis

Gist-based Intuition: Selected Illustrations

- Reyna & Lloyd (2006)
 - Greater expertise, more gist-based, process less information more crudely, superior ability to discriminate low vs. high risk cardiac patients
- Reyna & Mills (2007)
 - Mathematical models show gist preserved, verbatim decline, strategies underutilized in aging
 - *Both* gist and verbatim decline in Alzheimer's
- Reyna, in press
 - Cancer: Why precise risk information is ineffective
 - Gist, not verbatim = informed patient choice