Attentional retraining with alcohol dependent patients

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Decreasing AB and subsequent craving through attention training in alcohol dependent patients. Further, we will investigate whether the risk for relapse diminishes after the training. Long term goal is to investigate the effect of attention training...

Ethical review	Approved WMO
Status	Recruitment stopped
Health condition type	Cognitive and attention disorders and disturbances
Study type	Interventional

Summary

ID

NL-OMON29710

Source
ToetsingOnline

Brief title
ARAP

Condition

- Cognitive and attention disorders and disturbances

Synonym
attentional bias for alcohol related stimuli; selective attention for alcohol related objects

Research involving
Human

Sponsors and support

Primary sponsor: Universiteit Maastricht
Source(s) of monetary or material Support: NWO;Vidi-Grant 452.02.005

Intervention

Keyword: alcohol, attentional bias, patients, retraining

Outcome measures

Primary outcome

Reaction time scores on a attentional bias measure (visual probe task).

Craving scores.

Relapse ratio after participation.

Secondary outcome

attentional control

Study description

Background summary

Previous research has shown that alcoholics and heavy drinkers have an attentional bias (AB) toward alcohol stimuli. AB increases over time with increasing alcohol use. There is evidence that AB increases craving for alcohol, which increases drinking behavior. Recent investigations have shown that AB decreases after attention training. Attention training decreases AB in a direct way, and it is assumed that this will decrease craving for alcohol.

Study objective

Decreasing AB and subsequent craving through attention training in alcohol dependent patients. Further, we will investigate whether the risk for relapse diminishes after the training. Long term goal is to investigate the effect of attention training during regular treatment in order to see whether attention training is a useful extra tool in treating alcohol dependent patients.

Study design

Experimental research. Participants in the experimental group perform the attention training for five times on separate days. Participants in the control group perform a control task for five times on separate days. Before and after each training/control task, craving will be measured. AB will be measured during the first, third, fifth and sixth session. Up to three months after

participation, therapists will inform us about whether patients are still abstinent or have relapsed.

Intervention

Participants in the experimental group perform attention training five times, with 3 days in between each session. The training is a reaction time task, in which alcohol related and neutral stimuli are presented on a computer screen; goal is to avoid the alcohol stimuli and attend to the neutral stimuli. Participants in the control condition will perform a control task for five times; the control task does not influence attentional bias.

Study burden and risks

For every participant, there are six sessions. The first one takes about one and a half hour, the others about half an hour. Sessions are spread over a three-week period. During each session, participants perform computerized reaction time tasks of about 20 minutes. During the first session, the researcher will fill out some questionnaires with the participant on his or her former alcohol use, alcohol problems and use of other drugs (DSM-IV criteria).

There is no considerable risk in participating. The only negative consequence we can think of is that the training and control task will increase craving during these task, because alcohol related stimuli are presented in these tasks. However, there is no evidence of such an effect in the literature on attention training. Even more, the trainings we know of so far from our lab and other labs (see Wiers et al., 2006) have shown that craving does not increase after attention training.

Contacts

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Trial sites

Listed location countries

Netherlands

Eligibility criteria

Age
Adults (18-64 years)
Elderly (65 years and older)

Inclusion criteria

alcohol dependency according to the DSM-IV criteria

Exclusion criteria

- other harddrug dependency than of alcohol
- other psychiatric illniss requiring treatment
- limited mental abilities

Study design

Design

Study type:	Interventional
Intervention model:	Parallel
Allocation:	Randomized controlled trial
Masking:	Single blinded (masking used)
Control:	Placebo
Primary purpose:	Treatment

Recruitment

NL

Recruitment status:	Recruitment stopped
Start date (anticipated):	01-08-2006
Enrollment:	60
Type:	Actual

Ethics review

Approved WMO Date:	19-06-2006
Application type:	First submission
Review commission:	METC academisch ziekenhuis Maastricht/Universiteit Maastricht, METC azM/UM (Maastricht)

Study registrations

Followed up by the following (possibly more current) registration

No registrations found.

Other (possibly less up-to-date) registrations in this register

No registrations found.

In other registers

Register	ID
CCMO	NL11936.068.06