

# The efficacy of Attentional Training on Attentional Bias and Symptoms of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder

Published: 27-12-2006

Last updated: 14-05-2024

To investigate the efficacy of attentional training

<b>Ethical review</b>	Approved WMO
<b>Status</b>	Recruitment stopped
<b>Health condition type</b>	Anxiety disorders and symptoms
<b>Study type</b>	Interventional

## Summary

### ID

NL-OMON29799

### Source

ToetsingOnline

### Brief title

Attentional training in PTSD

### Condition

- Anxiety disorders and symptoms

### Synonym

psychotrauma, soldiers disease

### Research involving

Human

### Sponsors and support

**Primary sponsor:** Universiteit Leiden

**Source(s) of monetary or material Support:** Ministerie van OC&W

## Intervention

**Keyword:** attention, cognition, PTSD, training

## Outcome measures

### Primary outcome

Attentional Bias and Posttraumatic Symptoms

### Secondary outcome

Depressive symptoms

## Study description

### Background summary

Efficacy of Attentional Training on Attentional Bias and Symptoms of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder.

The symptoms of Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) include many cognitive phenomena such as: re-experiencing the trauma, recurrent and intrusive recollections, nightmares, flashbacks, hyper vigilance and memory loss. Many studies have reported memory and attention problems in PTSD (Buckley, Blanchard, & Neill, 2000). Attentional bias (AB) is defined as the automatic and selective allocation of attentional resources to threatening and negative information, and is thought to be an important contributing factor in the development and maintenance of PTSD. AB is measured using reaction time tests. Recently, it has been demonstrated that AB can either be created or eliminated in the laboratory by using adapted versions of the attentional tests (\*attentional training\*). Preliminary evidence suggests that it may be effective as a treatment in anxiety disorders, e.g., social phobia. AB is larger in PTSD than in any other anxiety disorder.

Outcomes: Attentional bias, PTSD symptoms.

Investment: diagnostic interview, questionnaires, assessment of AB (2 hrs

combined); Attentional training or placebo (8 times 20 minutes); Outcome assessment (30 minutes).

Risks: none. None of these procedures or questionnaires is any different from the procedures or questions that are asked in the context of their ongoing treatment. The attentional training task is considered boring by some participants (pilot data in students).

### **Study objective**

To investigate the efficacy of attentional training

### **Study design**

Randomized, double blind placebo-controlled trial.

### **Intervention**

Attentional training or placebo training.

### **Study burden and risks**

Participants will spend 8 hours in total in this researchproject. There are no risks to be expected.

## **Contacts**

### **Public**

Universiteit Leiden

Wassenaarseweg 52  
2333 AK Leiden  
Nederland

### **Scientific**

Universiteit Leiden

Wassenaarseweg 52  
2333 AK Leiden  
Nederland

## **Trial sites**

## Listed location countries

Netherlands

## Eligibility criteria

### Age

Adults (18-64 years)

Elderly (65 years and older)

### Inclusion criteria

DSM-IV diagnosis of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder

Score 24 points or higher on the Impact of Event Scale (IES)

Attentional bias (Dot Probe test)

### Exclusion criteria

psychotic disorder (lifetime)

alcohol or drug abuse or dependence (current)

high suicide risk (measured in a semi-structured interview)

## Study design

### Design

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

### Recruitment

NL

Recruitment status: Recruitment stopped

Start date (anticipated):	15-11-2007
Enrollment:	60
Type:	Actual

## Ethics review

Approved WMO	
Application type:	First submission
Review commission:	METC Leiden-Den Haag-Delft (Leiden)
	metc-ldd@lumc.nl

## 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	NL12042.058.06