

Confirmatory reasoning in social phobia: How does belief bias relate to complaint reduction?

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Ethical review	Approved WMO
Status	Recruiting
Health condition type	Anxiety disorders and symptoms
Study type	Observational non invasive

Summary

ID

NL-OMON30694

Source

ToetsingOnline

Brief title

Belief bias and social phobia

Condition

- Anxiety disorders and symptoms

Synonym

social anxiety; fear of disapproval

Research involving

Human

Sponsors and support

Primary sponsor: Rijksuniversiteit Groningen

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

Intervention

Keyword: belief bias, Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT), information processing bias, social phobia

Outcome measures

Primary outcome

- differences in belief bias over the course of treatment (pre vs post)
- differences in anxiogenic automatic memory associations over the course of treatment (pre vs post)
- differences in biased facial emotion detection over the course of treatment (pre vs post) and related behaviour patterns.
- predictive value of above mentioned measures in the return of complaints at follow-up

Secondary outcome

To find out which part of the reasoning bias is caused by activation of dysfunctional automatic associations, and which part is caused by biased mental operations.

Study description

Background summary

Dysfunctional beliefs, such as beliefs about rejection or shame, play a vital role in social phobia. It has been found that highly anxious people reason in a way that acts to confirm rather than to falsify their dysfunctional beliefs (also known as belief bias, Vroling and de Jong, 2007). This reasoning bias logically helps maintain the social phobia through maintaining the dysfunctional, social phobic, beliefs. Belief bias is in itself a common reasoning process. The causal status of this reasoning bias is still unclear. In a first attempt to tackle part of the causality question, we wish to study the decrease of belief bias over the course of symptom reduction (through

treatment). Furthermore, the current study design enables us to examine the predictive value of belief bias in the decrease and/or increase in social phobic complaints. Through these analyses, a clear interpretation of the role of belief bias in complaint maintenance can be achieved (belief bias should decrease when symptoms decrease) and some light can be shed on the role of belief bias in complaint development (predictive value of belief bias on return of complaint).

Furthermore, it is still unclear whether belief bias becomes dysfunctional because of the underlying dysfunctional beliefs, or that social phobic patients are indeed characterised by more belief biased reasoning which makes it difficult to integrate counterintuitive information. We wish to target this distinction by measuring both reasoning performance (amount of belief bias) and automatically associated dysfunctional beliefs.

Finally, we wish to investigate how other information processing biases develop over the course of treatment. More specifically, we wish to investigate the role of automatic evaluation tendencies in emotion recognition, and biased response tendencies.

Study objective

Our main objective is to gain insight in the possibly causal role of belief bias in maintaining social phobia. As a subsidiary issue, we wish to disentangle the differential influences of automatic beliefs and analytic reasoning processes in generating belief biased responding. Furthermore, we wish to gain insight in the relation of facial emotion detection (and related behaviour patterns) and social phobia.

Study design

Quasi-experimental study

Study burden and risks

Social phobia patients will be tested on 3 occasions at their treatment centre. Panic disorder patients will only be tested at T1, prior to the start of treatment. testing will take place at the treatment facility. Non-clinical control subjects will be tested on T1 and T2 (separated by 6 months) at the university laboratory.

Contacts

Public

Rijksuniversiteit Groningen

Grote Kruisstraat 2/1
9712 TS Groningen
NL
Scientific
Rijksuniversiteit Groningen

Grote Kruisstraat 2/1
9712 TS Groningen
NL

Trial sites

Listed location countries

Netherlands

Eligibility criteria

Age

Adults (18-64 years)

Elderly (65 years and older)

Inclusion criteria

suffering from either social phobia or panic disorder (with indication for ambulant CBT treatment)

non-clinical control group: resembling social phobia patient group concerning socio-demographic characteristics

Exclusion criteria

estimated IQ below 90

Study design

Design

Study type:	Observational non invasive
Intervention model:	Other
Allocation:	Non-randomized controlled trial
Masking:	Open (masking not used)
Control:	Active
Primary purpose:	Basic science

Recruitment

NL	
Recruitment status:	Recruiting
Start date (anticipated):	15-01-2008
Enrollment:	115
Type:	Actual

Ethics review

Approved WMO	
Date:	30-03-2007
Application type:	First submission
Review commission:	METIGG: Medisch Ethische Toetsingscommissie Instellingen Geestelijke Gezondheidszorg (Utrecht)

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

CCMO

ID

NL15824.097.07