Predictive testing: the perspective of attachment theory

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In this study, an attachment theoretical perspective will be used to investigate the predictive testing process for hereditary, neurodegenerative disorders (Huntington*s Disease, CADASIL, HCHWA-D, FTD) and hereditary cancer syndromes (hereditary…

Ethical review	Approved WMO
Status	Pending
Health condition type	Other condition
Study type	Observational non invasive

Summary

ID

NL-OMON31182

Source
ToetsingOnline

Brief title
predictive testing and attachment

Condition

- Other condition

Synonym
Huntington's diseae and breast and ovary cancer

Health condition

gezonde personen met een risico op erfelijke neurodegeneratieve ziekten of borst- en eierstokkanker

Research involving
Human

Sponsors and support

Primary sponsor: Academisch Medisch Centrum
Source(s) of monetary or material Support: Ministerie van OC&W

Intervention

Keyword: attachment, Breast and Ovarian cancer, Huntington's disease, predictive testing

Outcome measures

Primary outcome

Independent variables: attachment style and cognitions

Dependent variables:

psychological well being: general mental health, psychopathology and

psychological symptoms, psychological reactions.

Secondary outcome

n.a.

Study description

Background summary

In clinical genetics, healthy individuals can be tested to find out whether or not they are carriers of a specific hereditary disorder. Psychological consequences of such predictive testing have been studied in recent years. A systematic review of the literature on predictive testing for various genetic disorders shows that test result (favourable/unfavourable) hardly influences psychological well being. Carriers as well as non-carriers report increased levels of psychological well being after the test. Non-carriers experience a higher increase, which starts sooner after receiving test results than in carriers. Emotional well being before the test predicts the level of well being after the test. Individual reactions to the process and results of predictive testing are difficult to predict. The proposed study may contribute to finding individual factors associated with psychological reactions during and after

testing.

Study objective

In this study, an attachment theoretical perspective will be used to investigate the predictive testing process for hereditary, neurodegenerative disorders (Huntington*s Disease, CADASIL, HCHWA-D, FTD) and hereditary cancer syndromes (hereditary breast and ovarian cancer).
According to Bowlby*s attachment theory, a child*s early attachment experiences with its parent will result in a working model for social relationships throughout life. This attachment system is activated especially in stressful circumstances. An individual*s attachment style could therefore influence decision making, emotion regulation, mobilization of social support, etc., before, during and after testing. Insight in the relationship between attachment style and predictive testing would help improve the process of psychological counseling that is offered in predictive testing programs.

Study design

The aim of the study is to investigate relationships between attachment style and psychological reactions to testing, in person*s who apply for testing and their partners. Prevalence of attachment styles in both groups (neurodegenerative, hereditary cancer) will be compared and related to prevalence in a norm group.
After the first counseling session, data will be gathered on biographical characteristics, family history concerning the disease, attachment style, cognitive emotion regulation, sense of coherence, social interactions and life events. Psychological well being and psychological reactions to testing will be assessed.
One week and six months after the individual received the results of the test, information will be gathered on psychological well being and psychological reactions of participants.
All data will be gathered through self report questionnaires.

Study burden and risks

no burden; participants might experience their participation as support

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

50% at risk for Huntington's disease, CADASIL, HCHWA-D, FTD, BRCA1/2

Exclusion criteria

insufficient knowledge of Dutch

Study design

Design

Study type: Observational non invasive

Masking:	Open (masking not used)
Control:	Uncontrolled

Primary purpose:	Other

Recruitment

NL

Recruitment status:	Pending
Start date (anticipated):	01-10-2007
Enrollment:	150
Type:	Anticipated

Ethics review

Approved WMO

Application type:	First submission
Review commission:	METC Leids Universitair Medisch Centrum (Leiden)

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	NL18674.058.07