

Attachment relationships and (introjective and anaclitical) vulnerability factors to depression: Idiographic assessment with the Self-Confrontation Method

Published: 07-07-2007

Last updated: 08-05-2024

The objective of this study is fourfold: (1) The primary objective is the (construct-) validation of the SCM-typology. (2) A second objective is to explore the idiographic narrative assessment of depression. (3) A third objective is to explore the...

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

Summary

ID

NL-OMON31409

Source

ToetsingOnline

Brief title

SCM: attachment and depression

Condition

- Other condition
- Mood disorders and disturbances NEC
- Lifestyle issues

Synonym

communication with (intimate) other(s), depression

Health condition

hechtings- en interpersoonlijke relaties

Research involving

Human

Sponsors and support

Primary sponsor: Open universiteit Nederland, studiecentrum Nijmegen

Source(s) of monetary or material Support: Vereniging voor ZKM-beoefenaars (VvZB); Stichting waarderingstheorie en Zelfkonfrontatiemethode (W&Z)

Intervention

Keyword: Attachment relationships, depression, interpersonal relationships, Self-Confrontation Method (SCM)

Outcome measures

Primary outcome

SCM-based measures: (1) Mean scores on Self, Other, Positive and Negative affect scales; (2) Percentages of 6 types of valuations (strength & unity, autonomy & succes, aggression & anger, powerlessness & isolation, unfulfilled longing & loss, unity & love).

Questionnaire based measures: (A) Interpersonal behaviour: Eight subscales which can be reduced to two bipolar dimensions (submissiveness versus dominance, quarrelsomeness versus agreeableness); (B) Four Attachment style subscales (secure, preoccupied, dismissing, fearful); (C1) Depression: anaclitical subscales (concern about what others think, dependency, pleasing others); (C2) Depression: introjective subscales (perfectionism/self-criticism, need for control, defensive separation).

Secondary outcome

texts of the valuations

Study description

Background summary

In the Self-Confrontation Method (SCM, Hermans & Hermans-Jansen, 1995), which is rooted in valuation theory, the identification and discussion of one or more guiding themes in a person's self-narrative is one of the main activities of psychologist and client. The purpose is to stimulate self-reflection so that the client learns to detect in his or her story affective patterns that are reflections of two basic motives: (a) the *striving for self-enhancement* (Self motive: e.g. strength, self-confidence), and (b) the *longing for contact and union with something or someone else* (Other motive: e.g., love, tenderness). An important result of this communicative self-exploration is that central themes become visible in the self-narrative that pose suggestions to the client how to proceed. To that end valuations are clustered in a typology which comprises six basic types of experiences, each representing a different theme at a latent level. This study concerns the construct validity of this SCM-typology. Concepts from valuation theory are being compared to concepts from other theories that also make a fundamental distinction between "(development of) self" and *(relationships with) others*.

(A) The Self and Other scales as used in the SCM mirror the bipolar dimensions from interpersonal theory (e.g., Wiggins, 1979): submissiveness versus dominance, and quarrelsomeness versus agreeableness. Van Geel (2000) has pointed out the theoretical similarity between the hexagonal arrangement of the basic types of experiences (SCM typology) and the interpersonal circumplex (p. 12). (B) The distinction between self and other is also conspicuous in attachment theory, wherein four prototypes of attachment are being discerned on the basis of two bipolar dimensions: "negative vs. positive view of self" and "negative vs. positive view of others" (Brennan, Clark & Shaver, 1998). (C) Hermans and Hermans-Jansen (1995) describe three types of depression. Theoretically, the *prolonged grieving depression* (prominence of SCM-theme of *unfulfilled longing*) is similar to the anaclitical depression which results from an excessive reliance on, or investment in, significant others, together with intense needs for acceptance and love from others; The *self-directed hostility depression* (excessive presence of *aggression and anger*) is quite similar to introjective depression which results from an excessive investment in strivings for personal achievement, excessive demands for accomplishment and control, together with stringent self-standards and relentless self-criticism when these standards are not met (Alden & Bieling, 1996; Beck, 1983; Blatt, 1974; Nietzel & Harris, 1990).

Study objective

The objective of this study is fourfold:

(1) The primary objective is the (construct-) validation of the SCM-typology.

(2) A second objective is to explore the idiographic narrative assessment of depression.

(3) A third objective is to explore the idiographic narrative assessment of attachment relationships.

(4) A fourth objective is to enrich SCM-practice with concepts (and themes) from attachment theory and cognitive depression theory.

Study design

correlational design

Study burden and risks

Burden: participants invest approximately eight hours in performing a self-investigation (6 hours) and filling in questionnaires (2 hours at home).

Risk: Usually personal and intimate themes are being discussed in an SCM self-investigation. Sometimes painful experiences from the past or present may then emerge. In that case, a well-trained sensitive psychologist must be capable of giving the necessary support.

Benefit: The Self-Confrontation Method is presumed to be beneficial as it stimulates self-reflection in a systematic way. Central themes emerging from an SCM self-investigation may initiate personal development.

Contacts

Public

Open universiteit Nederland, studiecendum Nijmegen

Postbus 6870
6503 GJ Nijmegen
Nederland

Scientific

Open universiteit Nederland, studiecendum Nijmegen

Postbus 6870
6503 GJ Nijmegen
Nederland

Trial sites

Listed location countries

Netherlands

Eligibility criteria

Age

Adults (18-64 years)

Elderly (65 years and older)

Inclusion criteria

Commitment in doing a complete SCM-selfinvestigation

Exclusion criteria

recent psychiatric treatment

Study design

Design

Study type: Observational invasive

Masking: Open (masking not used)

Control: Uncontrolled

Primary purpose: Diagnostic

Recruitment

NL

Recruitment status: Pending

Start date (anticipated): 01-11-2007

Enrollment: 80

Type: Anticipated

Ethics review

Approved WMO

Date: 07-07-2007

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	ID
CCMO	NL16402.097.07