The efficacy of Attentional Training on Attentional Bias and Symptoms of Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)

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Exploring whether ABM is more effective than placebo-ABM in changing attentional bias and alleviating PTSD symptoms in patients (from diverse cultural backgrounds) with PTSD.

Ethical review	Approved WMO
Status	Pending
Health condition type	Anxiety disorders and symptoms
Study type	Interventional

Summary

ID

NL-OMON32068

Source
ToetsingOnline

Brief title
Training attentional bias in PTSD

Condition

- Anxiety disorders and symptoms

Synonym
Post Traumatic Stress Disorder

Research involving
Human

Sponsors and support

Primary sponsor: PsyQ Haaglanden
Source(s) of monetary or material Support: Ministerie van OC&W,Zon Mw,Psy Q Haaglanden;afdeling psychotrauma

Intervention

Keyword: Attentional Bias, attentional training, PTSD, symptoms

Outcome measures

Primary outcome

attentional bias

Secondary outcome

symptoms and cognitive parameters (i.e. cognitions about self and the world)

Study description

Background summary

Patients with anxiety disorders are characterized by distinctive patterns of attentional bias - attention is drawn automatically to information relevant to patients* current concerns. This bias consumes valuable cognitive resources and may play a role in the etiology and maintenance of anxiety disorders. Attentional bias is defined as selectively allocating attentional resources to threatening and negative information. Strong evidence exists that anxiety vulnerability is associated with this bias, whereas attentional bias tends to be smaller or even absent in recovered anxiety patients after treatment. Recently, studies indicate that attentional bias can be modified by a computertraining (Attentional Bias modification, ABM). This was shown in students with high trait anxiety and in patients with social phobia. Attention bias declined, but even anxiety level and symptoms were reduced. In this study we want to explore the efficacy of this attention training in patients with PTSD.

Study objective

Exploring whether ABM is more effective than placebo-ABM in changing attentional bias and alleviating PTSD symptoms in patients (from diverse cultural backgrounds) with PTSD.

Study design

80 Patients with PTSD will be randomly allocated to the training or the placebocondition. They will follow nine sessions of the Dot Probe task (see below). Before and after, attentional bias end symptoms will be measured. Six

week from the start of the intervention, a follow up meeting will take place.

Intervention

In the Dot Probe training task, first a fixation point appears in the center of a computerscreen. The next screen shows two pictures, on the right and left side of the screen. These two pictures differ in emotional tone (e.g., negative vs. neutral). Next, the two pictures disappear, and after 500 ms a dot appears in the spatial location of one of the two pictures. In the placebo condition, the dot appears half the time in the location of the negative picture and half the time in the location of the neutral word. Subjects are required to indicate the location of the dot by pressing a button. In the positive training condition, the probe always appeared in the location of the neutral picture. In this way, participants are trained to focus their attention on the neutral pictures and away from the negative picture.

Study burden and risks

none

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

Posttraumatic Stress Disorder

Exclusion criteria

a psychotic disorder (lifetime)
alcohol or drugs dependency (current)

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:	Pending
Start date (anticipated):	01-07-2008
Enrollment:	80
Type:	Anticipated

Ethics review

Approved WMO
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	NL21997.097.08