

# Breaking the cycle: The impact of intergenerational transmission of war trauma on the development of the young child

Published: 20-05-2008

Last updated: 11-05-2024

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<b>Ethical review</b>	Approved WMO
<b>Status</b>	Pending
<b>Health condition type</b>	Anxiety disorders and symptoms
<b>Study type</b>	Observational non invasive

## Summary

### ID

NL-OMON32274

### Source

ToetsingOnline

### Brief title

intergenerational transmission of war trauma

### Condition

- Anxiety disorders and symptoms

### Synonym

posttraumatic stress disorder, trauma

### Research involving

Human

### Sponsors and support

**Primary sponsor:** Stichting Centrum 45 (Oegstgeest)

**Source(s) of monetary or material Support:** Zon MW (aanvraag lopende), Centrum 45

## Intervention

**Keyword:** Intergenerational Relations, Pre-School Child, PTSD, Refugees

## Outcome measures

### Primary outcome

The main study parameter will be parental posttraumatic symptomatology according to DSM-IV-TR.

### Secondary outcome

Secondary study parameters are attachment, behavioural and developmental problems of the child as well as the parent-child interaction.

## Study description

### Background summary

The central question of this research is: What is the impact of intergenerational transmission of war trauma on the development of the young child? Parents interact with their child on a daily basis. It is within this interaction between individuals of different generations, parent and child, that attachment and development occurs. Complex traumatized refugees are facing extra challenges in rearing their children. The adults can experience serious shortcomings in their capacities to raise their children. Because of the young child's dependence upon primary caregivers, it is through this relationship that risk conditions are transmitted. In the scientific literature, these disturbances in the development of young children have received scarce attention. Because of this, our understanding of intergenerational transmission of trauma with young children is limited. This research will study the impact of being traumatized by war and subsequent migration on the development of the young child by assessing the well being of mother, father and child, as well as the interaction and attachment between the parent and the child.

### Study objective

The aim is to understand the influence of the interaction between the traumatized parent and his/her child on the symptomatology of the child. Our

aim is as well to understand the protective dynamics in the parent-child interaction for an optimal child development under difficult circumstances.

## **Study design**

Cross-sectional

## **Study burden and risks**

Parents and children will participate in one 6-hour assessment which consists of an interview, questionnaires and tests. Since the assessments mimics normal daily routine the burden for children is minimal and contains no risks. Parents can experience some arousal filling in questionnaires.

This research project will result in outcomes on several levels by contributing to: 1. a better understanding of the development of children by studying infants and the caregiver-child relationship in high risk situations; 2. insight into mechanisms of transmission of (complex) trauma and related symptoms to the off-spring; 3. implications for interventions that \*break the cycle\* on both a theoretical and empirical base; and 4. implications for prevention among high-risk populations.

## **Contacts**

### **Public**

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## **Trial sites**

### **Listed location countries**

Netherlands

## Eligibility criteria

### Age

Adults (18-64 years)

Children (2-11 years)

Elderly (65 years and older)

### Inclusion criteria

Included in the sample are asylum seekers and refugees who experienced trauma and are suffering from posttraumatic stress symptoms and have at least one child in the age of 18-40 months. The child must be born in the Netherlands and have not experienced traumatic experiences himself.

Included in the control group are asylum seekers and refugees who have not applied for help in the mental health care and have no or mild posttraumatic symptoms (below cut off score on the Harvard Trauma Questionnaire).

### Exclusion criteria

In line with other research, asylum seekers and refugees with severe mental retardation, addictions or psychosis will be excluded.

## 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:	Diagnostic

### Recruitment

NL

Recruitment status: Pending

Start date (anticipated):	01-01-2008
Enrollment:	76
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	NL20032.058.07