

cognitive avoidance in dissociative identity disorder (DID)

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The aim of the present study is thus to examine identity state-dependent cognitive avoidance in DID using a methodologically sophisticated design

Ethical review	Approved WMO
Status	Recruitment stopped
Health condition type	Dissociative disorders
Study type	Observational non invasive

Summary

ID

NL-OMON33160

Source

ToetsingOnline

Brief title

cognitive avoidance DID

Condition

- Dissociative disorders

Synonym

dissociative identity disorder; multiple personality disorder

Research involving

Human

Sponsors and support

Primary sponsor: Rijksuniversiteit Groningen

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

Intervention

Keyword: cognitive avoidance, dissociation

Outcome measures

Primary outcome

Differential identity functioning indexed by several cognitive measures (including memory indices and computer reaction times) and salivary free cortisol and α -amylase.

Secondary outcome

not applicable

Study description

Background summary

Dissociative symptoms are regarded as a defense against anxiety. Many theories of dissociation start from the premise that dissociative patients have the ability to selectively avoid internally-generated or externally-presented trauma-related information, labeled as the so-called cognitive avoidance hypothesis (Cloitre 1992; Elzinga et al. 2000). Whether the avoidance of trauma-related information is an intentional or automatic process is a matter of disagreement, as is the question regarding at which stage of information processing avoidance of traumatic material is accomplished.

Previous studies on cognitive avoidance and dissociation do not allow for a clear evaluation of the cognitive avoidance hypothesis. Contrasting results may in part be due to methodological shortcomings, that is, uncertainty about characteristics of the tested identity in DID patients, the lack of simulating control groups, and the use of non-clinical dissociators or few patients, which calls for more systematic study.

The aim of the present study is thus to examine identity state-dependent cognitive avoidance in DID using a methodologically sophisticated design. DID patients will be tested in a trauma identity state and an avoidant identity state. Overall, the cognitive avoidance hypothesis entails differential identity-specific responding in DID, that is, with evidence of avoidant responding in the so-called avoidant identity state and evidence of trauma preoccupation in the so-called trauma state. To look at different stages of information processing, several experimental tasks are proposed, including memory tasks, an attentional task, and an approach-avoidance task.

Study objective

The aim of the present study is thus to examine identity state-dependent cognitive avoidance in DID using a methodologically sophisticated design

Study design

Quasi-experimental design

Study burden and risks

Patients will be tested on 3 occasions at their treatment center. Non-clinical control subjects will be tested on 3 occasions at the university laboratory. They will perform cognitive computertasks, provide samples of saliva, and complete several questionnaires.

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

dissociative identity disorder primary diagnosis according to DSM-IV criteria; posttraumatic stress disorder as primary diagnosis according to DSM-IV criteria; non-clinical controls: mean age and education level equal to patient groups

Exclusion criteria

psychiatric disorders in non-clinical controls

Study design

Design

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

Recruitment

NL	
Recruitment status:	Recruitment stopped
Start date (anticipated):	01-10-2009
Enrollment:	100
Type:	Actual

Medical products/devices used

Registration:	No
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Ethics review

Approved WMO

Application type:

First submission

Review commission:

METC Universitair Medisch Centrum Groningen (Groningen)

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	NL26423.042.09