

# Characteristics of intrusions in offspring of Second World War victims

Published: 07-06-2010

Last updated: 04-05-2024

The aim of the current study is the systematic description of the occurrence and characteristics of intrusions and to relate these to several participant characteristics.

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

## Summary

### ID

NL-OMON33399

### Source

ToetsingOnline

### Brief title

Intrusions in the postwar generation

### Condition

- Anxiety disorders and symptoms

### Synonym

Post traumatic stress disorder

### Research involving

Human

### Sponsors and support

**Primary sponsor:** Rijksuniversiteit Groningen

**Source(s) of monetary or material Support:** Ministerie van OC&W, PSY-opleidingen Noord-Oost

## Intervention

**Keyword:** intrusions, offspring, trauma, war survivors

## Outcome measures

### Primary outcome

Number and characteristics of three types of intrusive recollections (reflecting the parent\*s camp experiences, war-related upbringing, other personally experienced traumatic events) and to relate these to several participant characteristics.

### Secondary outcome

-

## Study description

### Background summary

Most recent experimental studies of traumatic intrusive images have focused on factors operating at the time or in the immediate aftermath of the traumatic event. However, intrusions have been found to sometimes not accurately reflect an experienced event, consisting of so-called \*worse-case\* scenarios, that is, an exaggerated version of what really happened. Moreover, intrusions are not only reported by people who directly experienced or witnessed a traumatic event. Also the ones who are confronted more indirectly with traumatic events report intrusive images. The reports of inaccurate intrusions and intrusions by people who did not directly witness a traumatic event but received information indirectly (e.g., by stories from others), point out the need for research into other factors than factors operating at the time of event encoding to explain the posttraumatic complaint of intrusions.

Recently, a model has been proposed by Rubin, Berntsen, and Bohni (2008a), the so-called mnemonic model. In their view, it is the memory of the traumatic event, not the event itself, that determines post traumatic symptoms. Importantly, the memory is not fixed, but changes over time due to factors that characterize all memories in all people, for example factors related to individual differences, resulting in memories that do not (always) reflect the experienced event in an accurate way. Moreover, as indirectly experienced events are also encoded in memory, we hypothesize that these experiences also

give rise to intrusive images, comparable in detail, frequency and severity to intrusions following directly experienced traumatic events. These intrusions would not be expected based on models emphasizing the traumatic event, as event-related processing cannot take place if one is not present during the traumatic event. In order to evaluate the claims of the mnemonic model, it is important to investigate groups of patients who report posttraumatic complaints, including intrusions, but who do not satisfy current diagnostic criteria for a trauma. Three types of intrusions are investigated, intrusions reflecting the parent's war experiences, intrusions reflecting war-related upbringing, and intrusions following other personally experienced traumatic events.

### **Study objective**

The aim of the current study is the systematic description of the occurrence and characteristics of intrusions and to relate these to several participant characteristics.

### **Study design**

Combination of a quasi-experimental and correlational design

### **Study burden and risks**

Patients fill in 9 questionnaires on 1 occasion at their own home. Duration: approximately 1,5 - 2 hours.

## **Contacts**

### **Public**

Rijksuniversiteit Groningen

Grote Kruisstraat 2/1  
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### **Scientific**

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## Trial sites

### Listed location countries

Netherlands

## Eligibility criteria

### Age

Adults (18-64 years)

Elderly (65 years and older)

### Inclusion criteria

- patients have to be offspring of first generation Second World War survivors
- at least one of the biological parents of these children were held in internment camps in Dutch East-Indies
- patients have to be born after the war (after August 15, 1945), so age range between 40 and 65 years old.

### Exclusion criteria

schizophrenia or psychotic disorder, alcohol or drugs abuse

## Study design

### Design

**Study type:** Observational non invasive

Masking: Open (masking not used)

Control: Uncontrolled

Primary purpose: Other

### Recruitment

NL

Recruitment status: Recruitment stopped

Start date (anticipated):	01-08-2009
Enrollment:	67
Type:	Actual

## 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	NL28589.042.09