Dynamic Interactive Social Cognition Virtual Reality training for adults with Autism Spectrum Disorder (DISCoVR-A): a pilot study

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To determine the feasibility and acceptability of VR SCT on patients and for clinicians and to explore the effect of VR SCT on behaviour, social cognition and social anxiety in people with ASD.

Ethical review	Approved WMO
Status	Recruiting
Health condition type	Developmental disorders NEC
Study type	Interventional

Summary

ID

NL-OMON48561

Source
ToetsingOnline

Brief title
DISCoVR-A

Condition

- Developmental disorders NEC

Synonym
Autism, Autism spectrum disorder

Research involving
Human

Sponsors and support

Primary sponsor: Erasmus MC, Universitair Medisch Centrum Rotterdam

Source(s) of monetary or material Support: Stichting HJ Sipkema

Intervention

Keyword: Autism, Social Cognition Training, Virtual Reality

Outcome measures

Primary outcome

Acceptability, utility and feasibility of the intervention, measured using

questionnaires and interviews.

Secondary outcome

Social cognitive and neurocognitive outcome measures

Study description

Background summary

People with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) commonly experience deficits in social cognition and social functioning. Social cognition training (SCT) has been shown to have beneficial effects on social cognition tasks, but generalization to social functioning in daily life is limited. Current individual SCT do not seem to be ecologically valid, and patients cannot practice skills in dynamic social interactions. We propose that this problem could be solved by providing SCT in Virtual Reality (VR). VR allows for practice of skills in situations resembling real life, yet remaining safe and controllable.

Study objective

To determine the feasibility and acceptability of VR SCT on patients and for clinicians and to explore the effect of VR SCT on behaviour, social cognition and social anxiety in people with ASD.

Study design

This study is a feasibility study with a patient group with an autism spectrum disorder. Patients will receive the intervention, baseline post-intervention and follow-up assessments will be obtained.

Intervention

The VR SCT consists of sixteen sessions, during a 12-week timeframe. Session lasts 60 minutes. During sessions, social cognition is trained in virtual environments. The intervention consists of three modules: facial affect recognition, emotion recognition within a context & theory of mind and interaction training.

Study burden and risks

Participants will be interviewed and tested at baseline, post intervention, and at follow-up, with an average total duration of approximately one hour for each measurement. The intervention will take sixteen hours in total (sixteen sessions of 60 minutes each). We expect patients to benefit from the therapy by increasing social cognitive skills. Some patients might experience simulator sickness symptoms during the therapy. No major adverse events are expected or have been documented.

Contacts

Public
Erasmus MC, Universitair Medisch Centrum Rotterdam

Wytemaweg 8
Rotterdam 3015 CN
NL
Scientific
Erasmus MC, Universitair Medisch Centrum Rotterdam

Wytemaweg 8
Rotterdam 3015 CN
NL

Trial sites

Listed location countries

Netherlands

Eligibility criteria

Age
Adults (18-64 years)
Elderly (65 years and older)

Inclusion criteria

1. Diagnosis of an autism spectrum disorder, determined by a structured interview (ADOS/3Di) in the previous three years or a confirmed ASD diagnosis by a clinician
2. Age 18 * 65
3. Indication of impaired social cognition by the treating therapist

Exclusion criteria

1. An estimated IQ below 70
2. Substance dependence
3. Insufficient proficiency of the Dutch language
4. Presence of a relevant psychiatric or neurological disorder such as dementia, epilepsy or organic brain damage

Study design

Design

Study type:	Interventional
Intervention model:	Other
Allocation:	Non-randomized controlled trial
Masking:	Open (masking not used)
Control:	Active
Primary purpose:	Treatment

Recruitment

NL

Recruitment status:	Recruiting
Start date (anticipated):	04-10-2018

Enrollment:	25
Type:	Actual

Ethics review

Approved WMO Date:	12-09-2018
Application type:	First submission
Review commission:	METC Erasmus MC, Universitair Medisch Centrum Rotterdam (Rotterdam)

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	NL65384.078.18
Other	Trial NL8069