# Effect of EMDR treatment on trauma and autism symptoms in adults with ASD

Gepubliceerd: 12-11-2014 Laatst bijgewerkt: 18-08-2022

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Ethische beoordeling	Niet van toepassing
Status	Werving gestart
Type aandoening	-
Onderzoekstype	Interventie onderzoek

# Samenvatting

## ID

NL-OMON27504

#### Bron

Nationaal Trial Register

#### Aandoening

An autism spectrum disorder (ASD) is a developmental disorder, leading to a different way of processing information. Typical behaviors are: a reduced capacity for social interaction and communication, reduced use of imagination and a rigid pattern of repetitive stereotyped activities.

Eye Movement Desensitization Reprocessing (EMDR) is an evidence-based psychotherapy for Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). In addition, successful

outcomes are well-documented in the literature for EMDR treatment of other psychiatric disorders, mental health

problems, and somatic symptoms. The eightphase, three-pronged process of EMDR facilitates the resumption of normal information processing and integration. This

treatment approach, which targets past experience, current triggers, and future potential challenges, results in the

alleviation of presenting symptoms, a decrease or elimination of distress from the disturbing memory, improved view of the self, relief from bodily disturbance, and resolution of present and future anticipated triggers.

Dutch keywords: posttraumatische stresstoornis (PTSS), autisme, autismespectrumstoornis (ASS), trauma, EMDR.

English keywords: posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD), EMDR, ASD, trauma, diagnostic overshadowing, effect, efficacy.

# Ondersteuning

**Primaire sponsor:** None. **Overige ondersteuning:** Scientific research committee of the Vereniging EMDR Nederland (VEN): 1000 euro. Dokter Wittenberg Stichting: 3000 euro.

## **Onderzoeksproduct en/of interventie**

# Uitkomstmaten

#### Primaire uitkomstmaten

Severity of symptoms associated with PTSD, as measured by the Impact of Event Scale Revised (IES-R), decreases significantly after treatment with EMDR.

# **Toelichting onderzoek**

#### Doel van het onderzoek

The effect of EMDR in adults with autism has not been studied before. Hypothesis is that the severity of traumarelated symptoms decreases after treatment with 8 sessions EMDR in comparison of treatment as usual. There are indications of diagnostic overshadowing of trauma in people with ASD. Hypothesis is that autism symptoms may decrease too, especially those that show symptomatic overlap with traumarelated symptoms. Results contribute to the development of effective treatment of trauma for adults with ASD. This can lead to a reduction in symptoms and thus emotional, personal and social costs. In addition, results may contribute to the prevention of possible diagnostic overshadowing and undertreatment of traumarelated symptoms in adults with ASD.

#### Onderzoeksopzet

Measurement 1: modified ADIS, section PTSD (traumas and symptoms); IES-R; SRS-A; BSI. 6 t 8 weeks waiting period and TAU.

Measurement 2: modified ADIS, section PTSD (symptoms); IES-R; SRS-A; BSI.

A maximum of 8 sessions EMDR of 90 minutes.

Measurement 3: modified ADIS, section PTSD (symptoms); IES-R; SRS-A; BSI.

Follow up periode of 6 to 8 weeks.

Measurement 4: modified ADIS, section PTSD (symptoms); IES-R; SRS-A; BSI.

#### **Onderzoeksproduct en/of interventie**

In this quasi- experimental study, the patient is his own control. There are three measurements and one follow-up measurement. During the intake of EMDR is determined whether EMDR is an appropriate intervention. The patient is asked via informed consent if he or she wants to participate in the study. Then a regular waiting period of 6 to 8 weeks follows and treatment as usual (TAU) is offered. TAU consists of psycho-education or counseling. The second measurement takes place after the waiting period and before the start of EMDR. After a maximum of eight EMDR sessions of 90 minutes is the third measurement. After a follow up period of eight weeks is the fourth and final measurement.

All therapist are well educated EMDR-therapists and are known with working with adults with ASD. During the EMDR treatment the EMDR-therapists receive supervision of an EMDR-supervisor.

# Contactpersonen

#### **Publiek**

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### Wetenschappelijk

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# **Deelname eisen**

## Belangrijkste voorwaarden om deel te mogen nemen (Inclusiecriteria)

Normally intelligent adults of 18 years and older with ASD and (symptoms of) PTSD who receive outpatient treatment. ASD is diagnosed by a qualified psychiatrist or psychologist in accordance with the multidisciplinary guideline on the diagnosis and treatment of autism spectrum disorders in adults (Kan et al., 2013).

Perceived burden of traumatic events: the inclusion criterion is a score of 4 or higher on the visualized thermometer, belonging to the modified ADIS, section PTSD.

Permission to make video or audio recordings for supervision and assessing therapy integrity.

# Belangrijkste redenen om niet deel te kunnen nemen (Exclusiecriteria)

No command of the Dutch language.

Current psychotic symptoms.

Current manic symptoms.

Under the influence of alcohol, drugs and sedatives during the treatment sessions.

Patients who need more than 8 sessions EMDR because of the severity of the symptoms (usually complex PTSD).

# Onderzoeksopzet

#### Opzet

Туре:
Onderzoeksmodel:
Toewijzing:
Blindering:

Interventie onderzoek Anders N.v.t. / één studie arm Open / niet geblindeerd

4 - Effect of EMDR treatment on trauma and autism symptoms in adults with ASD 28-05-2025

Controle:

Actieve controle groep

# Deelname

Nederland	
Status:	Werving gestart
(Verwachte) startdatum:	15-11-2014
Aantal proefpersonen:	16
Туре:	Verwachte startdatum

# **Ethische beoordeling**

Niet van toepassing Soort:

Niet van toepassing

# Registraties

# **Opgevolgd door onderstaande (mogelijk meer actuele) registratie**

Geen registraties gevonden.

# Andere (mogelijk minder actuele) registraties in dit register

Geen registraties gevonden.

# In overige registers

**Register** NTR-new NTR-old Ander register ID NL4703 NTR4909 Dimence : COS20143

# Resultaten

5 - Effect of EMDR treatment on trauma and autism symptoms in adults with ASD 28-05-2025