

related behavioral disorders⁷. Patients exhibit low levels of quality of life. Their daily routine is affected negatively. However, Occupational Therapy has been proven to play a crucial role in their treatment, improving quality of life through the involvement in occupations.

Objectives: To highlight the contribution of Occupational Therapy in ameliorating the quality of life in anxiety disorders.

Methods: A review of 50 articles -from 2013 to 2023- on PubMed and Google Scholar, regarding the beneficial impact of Occupational Therapy in the Anxiety Disorders' treatment.

Results: Occupational Therapists can intervene in many negatively affected -by the disease- life domains such as: Activities of Daily Living, Education, Work, Play, Social Interaction and Sleep. The most effective Occupational Therapy methods are based on the cognitive behavioral approach and include: Psychoeducation, Relaxation techniques, Social skills training and Systematic desensitization.

Other methods involve training in Activities of Daily Living such as feeding, maintaining good personal hygiene, and using public transport. Furthermore, Art Therapy (visual arts, use of clay) has been shown to reduce feelings of anxiety, while promoting creativity and enhancing self-esteem.

Conclusions: Additional research is needed regarding the effectiveness of Occupational Therapy in improving the quality of life for patients suffering from Anxiety Disorders. The important "take home message" is that the amelioration of the patients' quality of life should be the main goal of the therapeutic intervention and not a secondary result of it.

Disclosure of Interest: None Declared

EPV0091

The multimodal psychotherapy of the anxiety disorders patients

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Introduction: Anxiety disorders are a common type of mental pathology with severe social and medical consequences in the lives of people suffering from them. General population studies indicate their prevalence ranges from 1.7% to 4.7% of the population. According to data from a US national study among the population aged 15 to 54 years, only 2.7% and 4.7%, respectively, suffered from panic disorder, one of the common types of anxiety disorders, during their lifetime. At the same time, the features of the emotional structure of anxiety disorders and the effectiveness of their psychotherapy among the population of low-income countries, especially in countries in a situation of prolonged bloody war and environmental disaster, remain poorly studied.

Objectives: The purpose of the study was to identify the features of the emotional symptomatic structure of anxiety disorder and evaluate the effectiveness of their psychotherapeutic correction. For this purpose, 180 patients with anxiety disorders who were hospitalized in Ukraine (during the period 2022 - 2023) were examined.

Methods: The basic method was group psychotherapy with elements of rational, positive, suggestive and family psychotherapy. Regarding emotional disorders, cognitive behavioural therapy (CBT) was used for phobic-depressive and anxiety-depressive syndromes.

Results: Most patients experienced a decrease in the level of general anxiety and internal anxiety. Almost no spontaneous occurrence of fear was observed. During active interviewing, patients stated that their previous anxieties and fears had lost their relevance and acquired clear emotional overtones. There was also a significant decrease in the symptoms of the depressive cycle, and patients began to feel joy and optimism.

Conclusions: To correct emotional dysfunction in patients with episodic paroxysmal disorders, generalized anxiety disorders and mixed anxiety-depressive disorders, it is optimal to use a system of psychotherapeutic correction built on stepwise and multimodal principles.

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EPV0092

Effects of adding acupuncture to group psychotherapy for anxiety

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Introduction: Acupuncture has long been used in treating anxiety, and a literature exists on its effectiveness. However, acupuncture is rarely covered by government insurance (Medicaid or Medicare) or even by many commercial insurance carriers in the United States, making it inaccessible to those who cannot pay separately.

Objectives: We asked if adding acupuncture to an anxiety group would improve outcome.

Methods: We provided acupuncture during group psychotherapy for anxiety as a non-billable service. This was feasible since patients were already being billed for group psychotherapy. A physician and a social work intern led the group. At the start of the group, the physician went around the circle of group members and inserted acupuncture needles, using points in the ears, head, hands, feet, and, in the summer, arms and lower legs). The size of the group ranged from 4 to 12 people. We used Battlefield auricular points, the four gates (Large Intestine 4 and Liver 3, bilaterally), and GV24, GV29, Ht7, and Sp6. Sometimes, other points were added for other symptoms (back pain, neck pain, etc.) People sometimes joined the group without anxiety as a core problem in getting access to acupuncture. A core group of patients formed who came weekly while others came and went. The Hamilton Anxiety Scale measured anxiety after treatments 4, 8, and 12. The group lasted 90 minutes and consisted of mindfulness training, guided imagery, and CBT for anxiety. All patients met the criteria for generalized anxiety disorder. The t-test procedure was used to compare the differences between the means for the two groups.

Results: Thirty-five patients received acupuncture, while another 55 patients attended the group and did not elect to receive acupuncture. All patients were covered by MaineCare health insurance, Maine's version of Medicaid. All patients had multiple other medical problems, which was why they were referred to the group. Seventy percent of the patients were women, and 30% were men. The average age was 40.1 years. Anxiety ratings on the Hamilton Anxiety Scale decreased by the last time measured for those not receiving acupuncture by an average of 5.17 points (S.D. 2.9; n = 55). Anxiety ratings for those receiving acupuncture decreased by an average of 7.19 points (S.D. 2.5, n = 35). The difference of the means was -2.02 (S.E. 0.595; 95% CI = -2.203 to -0.837; t = -3.394; p = 0.001).

Headaches, shoulder pains, and upper back pain also decreased. Patients reported high levels of benefit from the acupuncture and encouraged other patients to continue to come and try the acupuncture. Usually, the needles could be placed within the first third of the group.

Conclusions: Acupuncture improved anxiety ratings for people in group psychotherapy for anxiety over group alone, though the possibility of a placebo effect cannot be eliminated. Patients chose acupuncture, which could also present a potential bias.

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O0003

Using Virtual Reality Assisted Therapy to Reduce Cognitive Test Anxiety and Dysfunctional Metacognitions

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Introduction: Cognitive test anxiety and dysfunctional metacognitions can significantly impact an individual's performance and overall mental health. However, the effectiveness of various treatment strategies, including Virtual Reality (VR) therapy, is yet to be fully explored.

Objectives: This study aimed to examine the effectiveness of VR therapy in reducing cognitive test anxiety and dysfunctional metacognitions in adults.

Methods: A total of 64 participants were enrolled in the study, with 40 in the treatment group and 24 in the control group. Data were collected using the Metacognition Questionnaire-30, Cognitive Test Anxiety Scale, and a sociodemographic questionnaire. Paired samples t-tests were used to compare pretest and posttest scores, while independent samples t-tests were used to compare the means between the groups.

Results: The findings suggest that the treatment group experienced a significant reduction in cognitive test anxiety and negative metacognition scores following VR therapy. No significant changes were observed in the control group, and there were no significant differences in pretest scores between the treatment and control groups.

Conclusions: The study indicates that VR therapy may be an effective treatment strategy for reducing cognitive test anxiety and dysfunctional metacognitions. Further research is recommended to validate these findings and explore the potential of VR therapy in treating other psychological disorders.

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EPP0553

Perfectionism, self-efficacy and mindfulness as predictors of test anxiety among university students

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Introduction: Test anxiety includes subjective experience of intense physiological, cognitive and/or behavioral symptoms

during test-taking situations such as pacing, headaches, excessive feelings of fear, anger, troubles concentrating, sudden forgetfulness and negative self-talk. Especially students who are striving for flawlessness, have overly critical self-evaluations and beliefs that other expect perfection are sensitive to experiencing these feelings. On the contrary, individuals who believe in their ability, are present in the moment and are open to experiences tend to be more resilient to stressors and anxiety symptoms.

Objectives: The aim of this study was to investigate perfectionism, self-efficacy, and mindfulness as predictors of test-anxiety among undergraduate and postgraduate students of different study fields.

Methods: 525 undergraduate and postgraduate students from the fields of Natural, Medical Sciences and Engineering, Social Sciences, Humanities and Art, and Economics, Business and Administration Studies participated in the study. A sociodemographic form, the Test Anxiety Inventory (TAI), 15-Item Five Facet Mindfulness Questionnaire (FFMQ-15), Scale of General Self-efficacy (GSES) and Frost Multidimensional Perfectionism Scale-Brief (FMPS-Brief) were used. Descriptive statistics were used to show the sociodemographics of our sample, while correlational analyses were performed to assess the associations between the variables. To further validate the findings, multiple linear regression analyses were performed.

Results: Higher perfectionistic evaluative concerns and lower self-efficacy showed associations with test-anxiety and were proven as predictors among undergraduate and postgraduate students. In addition, being younger and female in postgraduates, and having perfectionistic strivings and being Mindful-Observe in undergraduate students proved to be significant predictors of test-anxiety.

Conclusions: The found associations of perfectionism and self-efficacy, as well as its predictor roles further validate the information we have in literature, but widen the sample to postgraduate students and various study fields which help us generalize the findings more. What adds the most value in theoretical and practical aspects is the findings associated with mindfulness. Mindfulness techniques are very popular intervention methods for anxiety related symptoms, and the positive relationship of Mindful-Observe with test anxiety opens new viewpoints to mindfulness-based interventions. Particularly focusing on Mindful-Observe while treating test-anxiety may yield better outcomes in alleviation of symptoms.

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Bipolar Disorders

EPV0093

Lithium withdrawal and relapse in bipolar disorder when kidney function deteriorates

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