Pilot study

Online selfhelp treatment of depression in MS (multiple sclerosis)

Lenka Nieuwenhuis MSc Mental Health Institute, Amsterdam

Projectmembers:

Dr. P. van Oppen

Prof. Dr. J. Dekker

Prof. Dr. C. Polman

Dr. B. Uitdehaag

Dr. E. Collette

Prof. Dr. P. Cuijpers







How would you feel?



25 – 35 years old Children? Buy a house? Career?

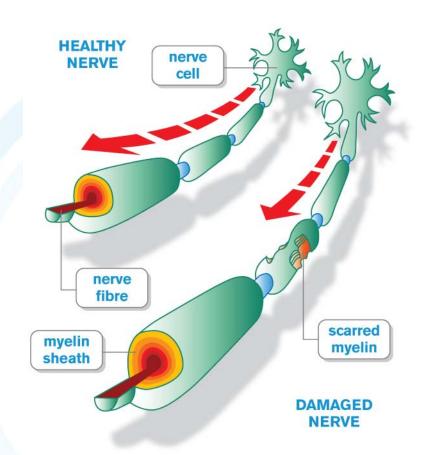






Immune system attacks central nervous system

Nerve cell communication disrupted



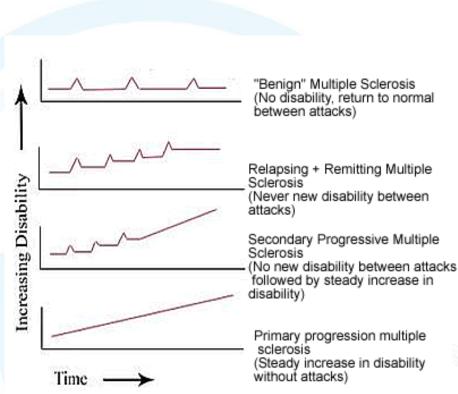






Symptoms

- Visual problems
- Changes in sensation
- Muscle weakness / spasm
- Bladder and bowel problems
- Fatigue
- Etcetera









- Prevalence → 1 in 1000 (Benelux)
 - Onset in young adults (20 40 year)
 - Female > male







- Prevalence → 1 in 1000 (Benelux)
- Cause remains unknown
- Course is unpredictable
- No cure







How would you feel?































Depression in MS

- Life-time prevalence ~ 50 %
- 12 month prevalence 15 25 %
- 50 % depressive symptoms at certain point of time
 - QoL ↓
 - Risk factor for suicidality







Depression in MS

Underdiagnosed and -treated

- Not mentioned (patients) vs.
 not asked (physicians and GP)
- Symptoms & signs overlap
 - E.a. fatigue, sleeping problems, concentration problems, loss of interest
- Distinguish from 'normal' mourning







Depression in MS

Recommended treatment

Psychotherapy DC Mohr and DE Goodkin (1999)

Hampering factors psychotherapy

- Physi

Perso

Trans

Fatigu

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Aim of pilot study

Online self-help program

ZOGENES)

- 1) Feasible?
- adherence
- response rate
- satisfaction

- 2) Effect on psychological distress?
 - depression
 - anxiety
 - QoL







Study design

40 MS patients

- Mild / moderate depression
 - Screening BDI > 16
- Pre and post test
 - Depression (BDI)
 - Anxiety (HADS)
 - QoL (Euroqol)
 - Problem solving (SPSI-R)
 - Client satisfaction (CSQ)







Study design

40 MS patients

- Mild / moderate depression
- Pre and post test
- CIDI diagnostic interview (DSM-IV)
 - Major / minor DD and dysthymia
 - Anxiety disorders









Problem Solving Treatment (PST)

based on

Self-Examination Therapy Bowman

web-based

Everything Under Control Cuijpers

for MS

Worry less / Minder Zorgen









Five weeks

- 1 lesson / week
- Homework
- Coach









Lesson 1

- What do you find important in life?
- What problems / worries do you experience in daily life?

Classify problems

- 1. Important and solvable
- 2. Unimportant
- 3. Important but insolvable









- Important and solvable problems
 - Use the 6 step problem solving method
 - 1. describe the problem
 - 2. list possible solutions
 - 3. pick the best solution
 - 4. make a plan
 - 5. implement the plan
 - 6. happy with the result? Yes











- Unimportant problems
 - Methods to stop worrying i.e. positive thinking and thought stop!









- Important but unsolvable problems
 - Learn how to cope and accept









- Make a plan for the future
 - Invest energy in the important things











Problems mentioned

- Relationship
- Adjustment to shower
- Asking for help
- Fatigue
- Sleeping problems
- Feeling guilty
- MS symptoms









Why this intervention?

- → Improvement depressive symptoms in general population A. van Straten, P. Cuijpers, N. Smits 2008
- → Enlarge reach of underserved MS patients

→ PST: easy & for all levels of education







Feasibility

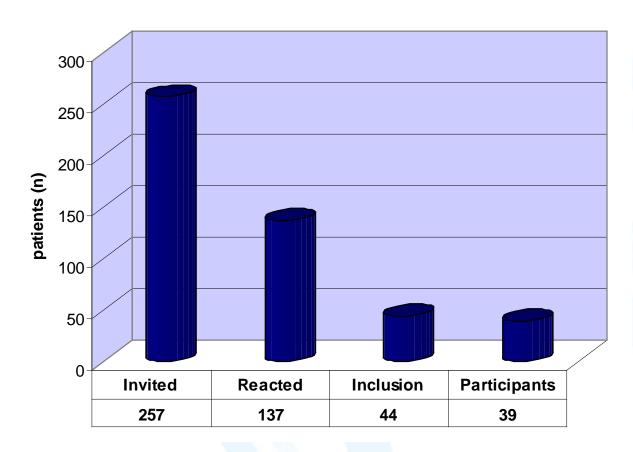
Reponse rate







Response rate









Feasibility

- Reponse rate
- Drop out & satisfaction

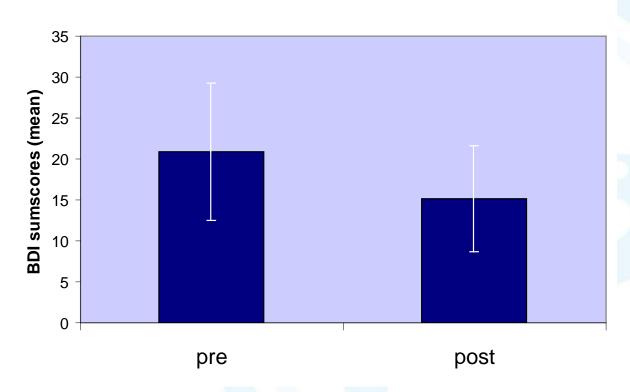
Drop outs	33 %
Satisfaction	7.6







Pre- and post treatment scores on the BDI (n = 14)



* p = 0.025 / effectsize = 0.78







What's next

Promising results ->
Randomised controlled study a.s.a.p.







Questions?



Contact

Lenka Nieuwenhuis minderzorgen@gmail.com

I.nieuwenhuis@ggzingeest.nl





