

The therapeutic relationship with multi-problem families and the influence of therapists' attachment representations

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Within a clinical population of multi-problem families a study will be conducted to the quality of the therapeutic relationship, the perception of the family on this relationship and the role of attachment representations of therapists and treatment...

Ethical review	Approved WMO
Status	Recruitment stopped
Health condition type	Psychiatric disorders NEC
Study type	Observational non invasive

Summary

ID

NL-OMON42029

Source

ToetsingOnline

Brief title

Therapeutic relationship with multi-problem families

Condition

- Psychiatric disorders NEC

Synonym

multi-problem families

Research involving

Human

Sponsors and support

Primary sponsor: Yulius

Source(s) of monetary or material Support: ZonMW

Intervention

Keyword: attachment, Family psychiatry, psychopathology, therapeutic relationship

Outcome measures

Primary outcome

The primary outcome variable is therapeutic relationship, the observed relationship consisting of 4 aspects, namely emotional connectedness, safety, shared goals and therapeutic involvement (4 subscales of the SOFTA observations). Additionally, the therapeutic relationship as experienced by the families is also measured. The second primary parameter is attachment, which is conceptualized by the attachment representations of the therapist and attachment styles.

Secondary outcome

Secondary study parameters are the treatment outcomes: increased feelings of influence, decrease of psychopathology, decrease of parenting stress, improvement in family functioning, decrease of attachment related fears in parents, and the degree of goal realisation.

Study description

Background summary

Working with multi-problem families with complex psychiatric problems asks a different attitude from therapists. According to Ghesquiere (1993), the interaction between the family and the therapist is the core problem in working with multi-problem families. Especially with such families it is of the utmost importance to build a strong therapeutic relationship (Zoon Berg-Le Clercq, 2013). Research to the therapeutic relationship with multi-problem families has been sparse, as has research to reciprocity in this relationship (Guzder e.a.,

2011).

Study objective

Within a clinical population of multi-problem families a study will be conducted to the quality of the therapeutic relationship, the perception of the family on this relationship and the role of attachment representations of therapists and treatment outcomes. The study population, multi-problem families, is a very specific group of people with psychiatric problems who are stuck in their family functioning. The present study will investigate the role of attachment representations of the therapists and will investigate the developmental course of the therapeutic relationship.

Study design

The family psychiatric departments of Yulius (Barendrecht) en GGZ Drenthe (Beilen) conduct this research together. On 4 measurement occasions (T0-T3) a number of different family factors will be measured by means of questionnaires, namely: parenting stress, parental psychopathology, general family functioning, child psychopathology, attachment styles and influence of parents. Between T0 (intake) and T1 (advice) there is a standard treatment aimed on proces diagnostics. A therapeutic relationship is formed between intake and advice with a systemic therapist. This relationship will be monitored during the first contact after intake by video and a questionnaire. Between T1 and T2 a specific intensive treatment takes place for 6-16 weeks. This is treatment as usual. In this phase, 3 therapeutic interventions are offered within the institutions: polyclinical treatment, family day treatment and clinical intake. Which treatment program the family will follow is not influenced by the current study, but this is dependent on family characteristics and the expert opinion of the therapist. The expected treatment outcomes are: greater feelings of influence, decrease of psychopathology, decrease of family stress, improvement of family functioning and goal realisation. Within two years we aim to include about 80 families in the study.

Study burden and risks

Parents: 4 x 40 minutes (T0-T3) and 5 minutes per time for monitoring the working relationship (SRS).

Children: monitoring the working relationship (SRS), 5 minutes per time.

Adolescents: 4 x 10 minutes (T0-T3) and 5 minutes per time for monitoring the working relationship (SRS).

Therapist: 20 minutes for attachment interview, 5 minutes for general questionnaire and 5 minutes for attachment questionnaire (RSQ).

There are no risks.

Contacts

Public

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Scientific

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Trial sites

Listed location countries

Netherlands

Eligibility criteria

Age

Adolescents (12-15 years)
Adolescents (16-17 years)
Adults (18-64 years)
Children (2-11 years)
Elderly (65 years and older)

Inclusion criteria

- All families that apply for family psychiatric treatment within the participating institutions will be recruited for participation
- All therapists that build a working relationship with these families will be included in this study. Therapists are at least HBO-educated.

Exclusion criteria

Participants that meet the following criteria will not be included in the study:

- 4 - The therapeutic relationship with multi-problem families and the influence of th ... 20-06-2025

- Not speaking Dutch
- Not having a definite place to stay or live

Besides, there are several contraindications for treatment and therefore for this study. These are:

- psychosis
- invalidating substance abuse
- families in need of crisis intervention

Study design

Design

Study type: Observational non invasive

Masking: Open (masking not used)

Control: Uncontrolled

Primary purpose: Treatment

Recruitment

NL

Recruitment status: Recruitment stopped

Start date (anticipated): 13-04-2015

Enrollment: 273

Type: Actual

Ethics review

Approved WMO

Date: 09-03-2015

Application type: First submission

Review commission: TWOR: Toetsingscommissie Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek Rotterdam e.o. (Rotterdam)

Approved WMO

Date: 01-04-2015

Application type: Amendment

Review commission: TWOR: Toetsingscommissie Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek Rotterdam e.o. (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	NL51686.101.14

Study results

Date completed:	09-05-2017
Actual enrolment:	119