

PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Psychiatry

Manuscript NO: 49454

Title: Do adjunctive art therapies reduce symptomatology in schizophrenia? A meta-analysis

Reviewer's code: 02989927

Position: Editorial Board

Academic degree: MD, MSc, PhD

Professional title: Associate Research Scientist, Doctor, Research Associate, Senior Scientist

Reviewer's country: Brazil

Author's country: United Kingdom

Reviewer chosen by: Li-Jun Cui (Quit in 2019)

Reviewer accepted review: 2019-06-04 10:18

Reviewer performed review: 2019-06-04 10:45

Review time: 1 Hour

| SCIENTIFIC QUALITY | LANGUAGE QUALITY | CONCLUSION | PEER-REVIEWER STATEMENTS |
|--|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing | <input type="checkbox"/> Accept | Peer-Review: |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language | (High priority) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good | polishing | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accept | <input type="checkbox"/> Onymous |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair | <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of | (General priority) | Peer-reviewer's expertise on the |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not | language polishing | <input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision | topic of the manuscript: |
| publish | <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection | <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Advanced |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection | <input type="checkbox"/> General |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> No expertise |
| | | | Conflicts-of-Interest: |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes |
| | | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No |

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

Manuscript ID 49454 Does art therapy reduce symptomatology in schizophrenia? A meta-analytic update, by Laws & Conway 2019. This is a meta-analysis of the effect of art therapy on the symptoms of schizophrenia. The authors have searched PubMed and Scopus and retrieved 9 randomized controlled trials (RCT), totaling 948 participants and 473 controls. The quality of bias was assessed through the Cochrane risk of bias tool (RoB2). Meta-regression and sub-group analysis was performed to assess the moderators. In conclusion, although art therapy did not reduce total or positive symptoms, a 'small' therapeutic effect was found for negative symptoms. This is a well executed meta-analyses, encompassing all steps of a traditional quantitative study. Possibly the most important concern is the coverage of of all RCT that was searched in 2 databases. The CINAHL, Embase, Web of Science, Science Direct are some alternative databases. The funnel plot shows an evident publication bias. I recommend the author to avoid the superlatives ("the most comprehensive", "the first time we..."). Academic writing needs ponderation. The authors may want to place or move some graphical elements as Supplementary material. Alternative, you can merge some Figures into a single Figure. Otherwise, this is a very good study.

INITIAL REVIEW OF THE MANUSCRIPT

Google Search:

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PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Psychiatry

Manuscript NO: 49454

Title: Do adjunctive art therapies reduce symptomatology in schizophrenia? A meta-analysis

Reviewer's code: 00784262

Position: Editorial Board

Academic degree: DSc, FRCP (C), MD

Professional title: Emeritus Professor, Professor

Reviewer's country: Canada

Author's country: United Kingdom

Reviewer chosen by: Li-Jun Cui (Quit in 2019)

Reviewer accepted review: 2019-06-04 10:42

Reviewer performed review: 2019-06-04 11:02

Review time: 1 Hour

| SCIENTIFIC QUALITY | LANGUAGE QUALITY | CONCLUSION | PEER-REVIEWER STATEMENTS |
|---|---|---|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing | <input type="checkbox"/> Accept | Peer-Review: |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good | <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language | (High priority) | <input type="checkbox"/> Anonymous |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good | polishing | <input type="checkbox"/> Accept | <input type="checkbox"/> Onymous |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair | <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of | (General priority) | Peer-reviewer's expertise on the |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not | language polishing | <input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision | topic of the manuscript: |
| publish | <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection | <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision | <input type="checkbox"/> Advanced |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection | <input type="checkbox"/> General |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> No expertise |
| | | | Conflicts-of-Interest: |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> No |

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS



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This is an excellent review article addressing the question of benefit in schizophrenia of arts-based therapies. I would suggest that the title be " arts therapies " rather than art therapy which, to most readers, means drawing and painting. I would also suggest a discussion at the end about the limitation of using symptom reduction as an outcome measure. Many interventions may be able to improve quality of life without necessarily impacting symptoms.

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- ☐ Plagiarism
- ☐ No

BPG Search:

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- ☐ Duplicate publication
- ☐ Plagiarism
- ☐ No

PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Psychiatry

Manuscript NO: 49454

Title: Do adjunctive art therapies reduce symptomatology in schizophrenia? A meta-analysis

Reviewer's code: 03764910

Position: Editorial Board

Academic degree: MD, MSc, PhD

Professional title: Associate Professor

Reviewer's country: Japan

Author's country: United Kingdom

Reviewer chosen by: Li-Jun Cui (Quit in 2019)

Reviewer accepted review: 2019-06-04 15:18

Reviewer performed review: 2019-06-17 02:58

Review time: 12 Days and 11 Hours

| SCIENTIFIC QUALITY | LANGUAGE QUALITY | CONCLUSION | PEER-REVIEWER STATEMENTS |
|--|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing | <input type="checkbox"/> Accept | Peer-Review: |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good | <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language | (High priority) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good | polishing | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accept | <input type="checkbox"/> Onymous |
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| publish | <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection | <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision | <input type="checkbox"/> Advanced |
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| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> No expertise |
| | | | Conflicts-of-Interest: |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes |
| | | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No |

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS



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In general, this study is well-constructed and the methods have no critical flaws. The only concern of mine is abandoned five articles written in non-English. The author wrote that they were excluded because of the language. However, I guess these articles have an abstract written by English, because they matched the initial electrical search. If so, the author is recommenced to examine the quality of these articles. Also, I believe the effect of art therapy depends on each participant's cultural background. Are there any data of the participants' race, ethnicity, and/or religions? It may be difficult to evaluate their influence on the effect of art therapy. Nonetheless, disclosing such information will be beneficial for clinicians and researchers of this region.

INITIAL REVIEW OF THE MANUSCRIPT

Google Search:

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BPG Search:

- ☐ The same title
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- ☐ Plagiarism
- ☐ No

PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Psychiatry

Manuscript NO: 49454

Title: Do adjunctive art therapies reduce symptomatology in schizophrenia? A meta-analysis

Reviewer's code: 02445242

Position: Editorial Board

Academic degree: MD

Professional title: Professor

Reviewer's country: India

Author's country: United Kingdom

Reviewer chosen by: Li-Jun Cui (Quit in 2019)

Reviewer accepted review: 2019-06-08 03:08

Reviewer performed review: 2019-06-19 16:02

Review time: 11 Days and 12 Hours

| SCIENTIFIC QUALITY | LANGUAGE QUALITY | CONCLUSION | PEER-REVIEWER STATEMENTS |
|--|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accept | Peer-Review: |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good | <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language | (High priority) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good | polishing | <input type="checkbox"/> Accept | <input type="checkbox"/> Onymous |
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| publish | <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection | <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision | <input type="checkbox"/> Advanced |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> General |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> No expertise |
| | | | Conflicts-of-Interest: |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes |
| | | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No |

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

This is an interesting meta-analysis on the role of art therapy in improving symptoms of schizophrenia. Since there are very few effective treatments for negative symptoms of schizophrenia, evidence-based evaluations of these somewhat unconventional therapies are very useful. However, if a few issues are sorted out this will improve the quality of an otherwise excellent manuscript. To my mind the foremost issue is with the definition of the term “art therapy.” Though the authors have provided a definition (page 4) and discussed the effects of different types of art therapies (page 22), all this still seems to be a little inadequate to me given the importance of a precise definition. Since the findings and the central message of this meta-analysis hinges on this definition, the authors need to define the term more carefully, provide further details of the definition and the evidence from literature that would support their definition. In this regard, the authors state that - “Frequently used as an umbrella term, art therapy encompasses a variety of non-verbal, creative interventions such as: dance therapy, music therapy and body-oriented psychotherapy.” The references for this statement are not very clear but the authors quote a conceptual review by Hogan, 2009, the MATISSE trial (Crawford et al. 2012) and a RCT by Montag et al. 2014. Out of these only Montag et al. provide some clue as to what art therapy consists of by stating that - “Under the umbrella of creative therapies and based on a meta-analysis (en)compassing art, music, drama and dance movement therapies, art therapy was integrated in international treatment recommendations for schizophrenia like the British NICE guidelines.” On the other hand, the NICE guidelines for schizophrenia actually provide a more comprehensive definition as well as a description of what is included in art therapies - “Arts therapies currently provided in the UK comprise: art therapy or art psychotherapy, dance movement therapy, body psychotherapy, drama therapy and music therapy” [page 217]. Another explicit definition of art therapies is provided in a systematic review of art therapy among people with non-psychotic disorders (Uttley et al. 2015;

HTA Assessment: volume 19 issue 18). This review makes two things clear: one, that art therapy “is a specific branch of treatment under the umbrella term arts therapies,” which also includes drama therapy, music therapy and dance movement therapy. Secondly, it also defines art therapy as treatment “using painting, clay work and other creative visual art-making.” The implications of these definitions, therefore, are that the authors have to clarify whether theirs was a meta-analysis of art therapy or art therapies. They will have to then specify that art therapies (and not just art therapy) include creative visual art-making (missing from their definition), dance movement therapy (and not dance therapy as stated), music therapy (missing from their definition), drama therapy and body-oriented psychotherapy. It would also be useful if the authors could briefly explain what body-oriented psychotherapy entails because many readers might be unfamiliar with the term. The title may need changing depending on whether authors choose to use either art therapies or art therapy. Moreover, since this is not an update of literature the more appropriate title would be: “Does art therapy reduce (or Do art therapies reduce) symptomatology in schizophrenia? An updated meta-analysis.” Lastly, since none of the RCTs included in this meta-analysis would have used art therapies as sole treatments for patients with schizophrenia, it would better to include the word “adjunctive” in the title as in – Does adjunctive art therapy reduce (or Do adjunctive art therapies reduce) symptomatology in schizophrenia? An updated meta-analysis. The second issue is that the review of prior evidence is somewhat sketchy. Though the authors have mentioned a number of meta-analytic investigations, narrative reviews and guidelines in different sections of the manuscript, some key ones seem to be missing. I think the review by Maujean et al. should be first mentioned in the introduction rather than the discussion. The review by Röhrich, 2009 on body oriented psychotherapy is mentioned in the reference list but I could not locate a reference to it in the main text. There are two other reviews, a recent narrative review on art therapy (Regev and

Cohen-Yatziv, *Front. Psychol.*, 29 August 2018), and a meta-analytic review on dance movement therapy by Koch et al. (*The Arts in Psychotherapy* 2014;41: 46-64.0, which the authors seem to have missed. Finally, I think a few lines on the MATISSE trial and Priebe et al.'s study would be relevant here than later in the discussion, because these have has been the key trials in this area. To sum up, a more comprehensive and succinct review of the issues in this area of research would provide a better context for the necessity of conducting the present meta-analysis and also make the findings of the meta-analysis more relevant. The authors state that the meta-analysis followed PRISMA guidelines. However, to be certain about this: a) It would be useful if the authors include a completed PRISMA checklist, perhaps as a supplement. b) The authors also have to clarify whether they rated the quality of the studies and if they had done so, they should mention the tool/instrument used for this purpose. The results of the 'PICOS' analysis as recommended by the PRISMA guidelines should also be mentioned. On page 17 of the results the following sentence is somewhat unclear – “Turning to categorical variables, trials with high risk had significantly larger effect sizes than those at lower risk....” Do they authors mean a high risk of bias? If so this sentence should be re-written. In the discussion the authors could discuss the reasons for the failure of the MATISSE trial and Priebe et al.'s study to demonstrate positive results for negative symptoms. They could refer to the article by Holtum & Huet, 2014; Sage Open, which highlights the shortcomings of the MATISSE trial and an editorial by Crawford (*Br J Psych* 2016; 209; 6-8) on the same lines about the Priebe's study.

INITIAL REVIEW OF THE MANUSCRIPT

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[] Plagiarism

[Y] No

BPG Search:

[] The same title

[] Duplicate publication

[] Plagiarism

[Y] No