1. **Systematic Review OR Meta Analysis AND DMT**

und Ergänzung von Handsuche-Ergebnissen
(zusammengestellt 2019-02-28: Iris Bräuninger)


Abstract. Objective: To provide an overview of non-pharmacological interventions for behavioural and psychological symptoms in dementia (BPSD).

Design Systematic overview of reviews:


Eligibility criteria. Systematic reviews (SRs) that included at least one comparative study evaluating any non-pharmacological intervention, to treat BPSD.

Data extraction. Eligible studies were selected and data extracted independently by 2 reviewers.

The AMSTAR checklist was used to assess the quality of the SRs.

Data analysis. Extracted data were synthesised using a narrative approach.

Results. 38 SRs and 142 primary studies were identified, comprising the following categories of non-pharmacological interventions: (1) sensory stimulation interventions (12 SRs, 27 primary studies) that encompassed: acupressure, aromatherapy, massage/touch therapy, light therapy and sensory garden; (2) cognitive/emotion-oriented interventions (33 SRs; 70 primary studies) that included cognitive stimulation, music/dance therapy, dance therapy, snoezelen, transcutaneous electrical nerve stimulation, reminiscence therapy, validation therapy, simulated presence therapy; (3) behaviour management techniques (6 SRs; 32 primary studies) and (4) other therapies (5 SRs, 12 primary studies) comprising exercise therapy, animal-assisted therapy, special care unit and dining room environment-based interventions. Music therapy was effective in reducing agitation (SMD, −0.49; 95% CI −0.82 to −0.17; p=0.003), and anxiety (SMD, −0.64; 95% CI −1.05 to −0.24; p=0.002). Home-based behavioural management techniques, caregiver-based interventions or staff training in communication skills, person-centred care or dementia care mapping with supervision during implementation were found to be effective for symptomatic and severe agitation.

Conclusions. A large number of non-pharmacological interventions for BPSD were identified. The majority of the studies had great variation in how the same type of intervention was defined and applied, the follow-up duration, the type of outcome measured, usually with modest sample size. Overall, music therapy and behavioural management techniques were effective for reducing BPSD.


Abstract. Objective. This systematic review examined the effectiveness of creative psychological interventions (CPIs) for adult cancer patients. In particular, the findings of randomised controlled trials of art, drama, dance/movement and music therapies on psychological outcomes were examined.
Methods. The review yielded 10 original studies analysing data from a total of 488 patients. Data extraction and quality assessment were conducted by two independent reviewers.

Results. Four of the papers focused on the use of art therapy, three studies used music therapy, one paper utilised dance therapy, one study used dance/movement therapy and the remaining paper used creative arts therapies, which was a combination of different art-based therapy approaches. Eight papers focused solely on breast cancer patients, and the remaining studies included mixed cancer sites/stages. The studies reported improvements in anxiety and depression, quality of life, coping, stress, anger and mood. However, few physical benefits of CPIs were reported; there was no significant impact of a CPI on physical aspects of quality of life, vigour-activity or fatigue-inertia or physical functioning. One study was assessed as high quality, seven studies were assessed as satisfactory and two studies were assessed to be of poorer quality.

Conclusions. There is initial evidence that CPIs benefit adult cancer patients with respect to anxiety and depression, quality of life, coping, stress, anger and mood; there was no evidence to suggest that any one type of CPI was especially beneficial. However, more and better quality research needs to be conducted, particularly in the areas of drama and dance/movement therapies.


Abstract. Objective: There is a growing body of literature supporting the use of creative arts therapies; however, the efficacy of creative arts therapies in the treatment of posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) has not been systematically evaluated. The aim of this systematic review was to examine the efficacy of creative arts therapy including music therapy, art therapy, dance/movement therapy, and drama therapy, in the treatment of PTSD. Method: Ten databases were searched for peer-reviewed literature published from inception to December 2016. Studies were included in the review if they used a randomized controlled trial (RCT), a pseudo RCT, or a controlled study design; tested the efficacy of one of the creative arts therapies described above; and reported changes to PTSD diagnosis or symptomatology. Results: From an initial yield of 1,918 records, 1,653 records were screened on title and abstract and 125 were screened at full-text. Seven studies met the inclusion criteria for review, with four studies investigating art therapy, two studies investigating music therapy, and a final study investigating drama therapy. Individual studies were initially rated on a standardized quality and bias checklist, and then GRADE was used to rate the overall evidence for each intervention. The evidence for music therapy, art therapy, and drama therapy was ranked as low to very low, with no studies found for dance/movement therapy. Generally, the quality of the trials was very poor. Future directions for this field of research are to improve the scientific quality of the research trials in this area.


Abstract. Despite steadfast interest in the use of arts therapies (ATs) with individuals who have dementia of the Alzheimer's type (DAT), a systematic review of the literature has not been conducted. This paper aims to critique this evidence base, including music, visual arts, drama, and dance/movement therapies between the years 1990 and 2010, and make suggestions on how it can be strengthened. The review addresses four questions: (1) What is the focus of the empirical base on using AT with persons who have DAT? (2) (How) have these studies been designed and evaluated? (3) What findings are reported? (4)
What does this tell us about the potential of AT for enriching the lives of people with dementia? This analysis reveals that systematically designed, documented, and evaluated AT studies are scarce. Information on research design, operational concepts, measurement tools, and methods of evaluation/analysis are vague, if provided. Disagreement exists about the utilization of theoretical concepts and measurement/evaluation tools. The evidence base is further divided between studies focusing on the ‘product’ versus the ‘process’ of art. Shortcomings in dementia-specific research include a paucity of accounts from participants, failure to extend therapies to individuals in the early stages, a lack of application to those living at home, and often superficial attention to the meaningful aspects of doing art. Models investigating subjective well-being, or ‘enrichment,’ rather than objectively measured biomedical approaches privileging the management of deficits, would expand the evidence base and help ensure that those with dementia receive the services they want, since strictly allopathic methodologies will continue to fall short of adequately evaluating what are deeply idiosyncratic psychosocial issues. Keywords. Alzheimer's disease, art therapy, dementia, quality of life


Abstract. Background. Fibromyalgia is a chronic disorder characterized by widespread muscular tenderness, pain, fatigue, and cognitive difficulties. Nonpharmacological treatment options, such as physical activity, are important for people with fibromyalgia. There are strong recommendations to support engagement in physical activity for symptom management among adults with fibromyalgia. Dance is a mode of physical activity that may allow individuals with fibromyalgia to improve their physical function, health, and well-being. Dance has the potential to promote improved pain processing while simultaneously providing the health and social benefits of engaging in physical activity that contributes to symptom management and overall function rehabilitation. However, we are unaware of current evidence on dance as a nonpharmacological/physical activity intervention for adults with fibromyalgia.

Objective. The aims of this study were to understand how dance is used therapeutically by individuals with fibromyalgia; to examine the extent, range and nature of research activity in the area; and to determine the value of undertaking a systematic review of interventions.

Methods. We used and adapted the Arksey and O’Malley scoping framework. The search strategy involved a comprehensive search of main health and electronic social databases, trial registries and grey literature without language limits. Pairs of reviewers independently screened and extracted data and evaluated the methodological quality of randomized control trials.

Results. Twenty-one unique records for 13 studies met inclusion criteria; the studies included mostly middle-aged women. Types of dance included were aerobic dance, belly dance, dance movement therapy, biodanza and Zumba. Intervention parameters were different among studies. Frequency varied between one to three times a week; all were done in small group settings. Studies evaluated a variety of outcomes in the symptoms, wellness, psychosocial, physical functioning, balance and fitness categories; no studies evaluated the safety or adverse events systematically which is a major weakness of the literature.

Conclusions. There are few studies in the field of dance and fibromyalgia, suggesting research is in its infancy but slowly growing. They are of European and South American origin, focusing on female participants and a limited number of dance modes. Because the body of literature is small, of low quality
and highly heterogeneous, we concluded that a systematic review of interventions on dance is not warranted at this time.

Keywords: fibromyalgia, exercise, dancing, scoping review, adult


Abstract. Background. Breast cancer is one of the most common types of cancer. However, only a few trials assess the effects of arts therapies. Material and Methods. We searched the Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials, PubMed, and Google Scholar from their start date to January 2012. We handsearched reference lists and contacted experts. All randomized controlled trials, quasi-randomized trials, and controlled clinical trials of art interventions in breast cancer patients were included. Data were extracted and risk of bias was assessed. Meta-analyses were performed using standardized mean differences. Results. Thirteen trials with a total of 606 patients were included. Arts therapies comprised music therapy interventions, various types of art therapy, and dance/movement therapies. The methodological quality ranged from poor to high quality with the majority scoring 3 of 4 points on the Jadad scale. Results suggest that arts therapies seem to positively affect patients’ anxiety (standardized mean difference: −1.10; 95%, confidence interval: −1.40 to −0.80) but not depression or quality of life. No conclusion could be drawn regarding the effects of arts therapy on pain, functional assessment, coping, and mood states. Discussion. Our review indicates that arts interventions may have beneficial effects on anxiety in patients with breast cancer.


Abstract. Background. Current cancer care increasingly incorporates psychosocial interventions. Cancer patients use dance/movement therapy to learn to accept and reconnect with their bodies, build new self-confidence, enhance self-expression, address feelings of isolation, depression, anger and fear and to strengthen personal resources.

Objectives. To update the previously published review that examined the effects of dance/movement therapy and standard care versus standard care alone or standard care and other interventions on psychological and physical outcomes in patients with cancer.

Search methods. We searched the Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials (CENTRAL) (The Cochrane Library 2014, Issue 6), MEDLINE (OvidSP, 1950 to June week 4, 2014), EMBASE (OvidSP, 1980 to 2014 week 26), CINAHL (EBSCOhost, 1982 to July 15 2014), PsycINFO (EBSCOhost, 1806 to July 15 2014), LILACS (Virtual Health Library, 1982 to July 15 2014), Science Citation Index (ISI, 1974 to July 15 2014), CancerLit (1983 to 2003), International Bibliography of Theatre and Dance (1989 to July 15 2014), the National Research Register (2000 to September 2007), Proquest Digital Dissertations, ClinicalTrials.gov, and Current Controlled Trials (all to July 15 2014). We handsearched dance/movement therapy and related topics journals, reviewed reference lists and contacted experts. There was no language restriction.

Selection criteria. We included all randomized and quasi-randomized controlled trials of dance/movement therapy interventions for improving psychological and physical outcomes in patients with cancer. We
considered studies only if dance/movement therapy was provided by a formally trained dance/movement
therapist or by trainees in a formal dance/movement therapy program.

Data collection and analysis. Two review authors independently extracted the data and assessed the
methodological quality, seeking additional information from the trial researchers when necessary. Results
were presented using standardized mean differences.

Main results. We identified one new trial for inclusion in this update. In total, the evidence for this review
rests on three studies with a total of 207 participants.

We found no evidence for an effect of dance/movement therapy on depression (standardized mean
difference (SMD) = 0.02, 95% confidence interval (CI) -0.28 to 0.32, P = 0.89, I² = 0%) (two studies, N
= 170), stress (SMD = -0.18, 95% CI -0.48 to 0.12, P = 0.24, I² = 0%) (two studies, N = 170), anxiety
(SMD = 0.21, 95% CI -0.09 to 0.51 P = 0.18, I² = 0%) (two studies, N = 170), fatigue (SMD = -0.36,
95% -1.26 to 0.55, P = 0.44, I² = 80%) (two studies, N = 170) and body image (SMD = -0.13, 95% CI -
0.61 to 0.34, P = 0.58, I² = 0%) (two studies, N = 68) in women with breast cancer. The data of one study
with moderate risk of bias suggested that dance/movement therapy had a large beneficial effect on 37
participants' quality of life (QoL) (SMD = 0.89, 95% CI 0.21 to 1.57). One study with a high risk of bias
reported greater improvements in vigor and greater reduction in somatization in the dance/movement
therapy group compared to a standard care control group (N = 31). The individual studies did not find
support for an effect of dance/movement therapy on mood, mental health, and pain. It is unclear whether
this was due to ineffectiveness of the treatment, inappropriate outcome measures or limited power of the
trials. Finally, the results of one study did not find evidence for an effect of dance/movement therapy on
shoulder range of motion (ROM) or arm circumference in 37 women who underwent a lumpectomy or
breast surgery. However, this was likely due to large within-group variability for shoulder ROM and a
limited number of participants with lymphedema. Two studies presented moderate risk of bias and one
study high risk of bias. Therefore, overall, the quality of the evidence is very low.

Authors' conclusions. We did not find support for an effect of dance/movement therapy on depression,
stress, anxiety, fatigue and body image. The findings of individual studies suggest that dance/movement
therapy may have a beneficial effect on QoL, somatization, and vigor. However, the limited number of
studies prevents us from drawing conclusions concerning the effects of dance/movement therapy on
psychological and physical outcomes in cancer patients.

Erwachsenen, Kindern und Jugendlichen [Dance therapy in cancer treatment: Research and application in
adults, children, and adolescents]. Zeitschrift für Sportpsychologie, 24(2), 54-64.
Zusammenfassung. Dieser Artikel bietet eine Übersicht zum Forschungsstand zu Tanztherapie bei Krebs.
Der erste Teil widmet sich der theoretischen Fundierung der Tanztherapie im onkologischen Setting. Der
zweite Teil fasst wissenschaftliche Erkenntnisse aus Tanztherapie Studien in der onkologischen
Behandlung zusammen. Abschließend werden Einsatzmöglichkeiten während verschiedener Phasen der
Behandlung mit entsprechenden tanztherapeutischen Behandlungszielen aus den Studienergebnissen
abgeleitet. Die Literaturecherche ergab, dass Tanztherapie in allen Phasen der Krebsbehandlung
eingesetzt wird mit dem Ziel, den emotionalen, sozialen, physischen und spirituellen Zustand der
Patientinnen und Patienten zu verbessern. Zukünftige randomisierte kontrollierte Trials könnten die
Wirksamkeit spezifischer tanztherapeutischer Interventionen während unterschiedlicher
Behandlungsphasen auf Symptome und bei Männern und Kindern untersuchen.
Schlüsselwörter: Tanztherapie, Krebs, Forschungsstand, Embodiment

Abstract. This article provides an overview of the research and application of dance movement therapy in cancer treatment. The first part is devoted to the theoretical foundation of dance movement therapy in the oncological setting. The second part summarizes scientific findings from dance movement therapy studies in oncological treatment. The last part highlights the application during different treatment phases and corresponding treatment goals. One finding from the literature review was that dance movement therapy was provided in all phases of treatment to improve emotional, social, physical, and spiritual outcomes of cancer patients. Further randomized controlled trials could evaluate the efficacy of specific dance movement therapy interventions in different treatment phases on various symptoms and on men and children.

Key words: dance movement therapy, cancer, research, embodiment (not a systematic review but current overview of literature)


Abstract: The use of conscious breathing practices for the purpose of physical, psychological, emotional, and spiritual healing has a long and extremely varied history, yet little work has been done to see if these practices can be brought into a coherent and unified form that contributes to the field of body psychotherapy. This article attempts to meta-analyse the literature and research on breathwork in psychotherapy, with an emphasis on body psychotherapy, and to find common themes so that a general theory of breathwork and guidelines for practice might be developed. This paper provides an overview of the physiology of breathing, a review of the literature on breathwork.

Keywords: breath, breathwork, body psychotherapy, conscious breathing, breathing therapy


Abstract. Background. Dance therapy is a less conventional modality of physical activity in cardiovascular rehabilitation. We performed a systematic review and meta-analysis to investigate the effects of dance therapy in hypertensive patients.

Methods. Pubmed, Scopus, LILACS, IBecs, MEDLINE and SciELO via Virtual Health Library (Bireme) (from the earliest data available to February 2016) for controlled trials that investigated the effects of dance therapy on exercise capacity, systolic (SBP) and diastolic (DBP) blood pressure in hypertensive patients. Weighted mean differences (WMD) and 95% confidence intervals (CIs) were calculated, and heterogeneity was assessed using the I2 test.

Results. Four studies met the eligibility criteria. Dance therapy resulted in a significant reduction in systolic blood pressure (WMD $-12.01$ mm Hg; 95% CI: $-16.08, -7.94$ mm Hg; $P < 0.0001$) when compared with control subjects. Significant reduction in diastolic blood pressure were also found (WMD $-3.38$ mm Hg; 95% CI: $-4.81, -1.94$ mm Hg; $P < 0.0001$), compared with control group. Exercise capacity showed a significant improvement (WMD 1.31; 95% CI: 0.16, 2.47; $P < 0.03$). A moderate to high heterogeneity was observed in our analysis: $I^2 = 92%$ to SBP, $I^2 = 55%$ to DBP, and $I^2 = 82%$ to exercise capacity.
Conclusions. Our meta-analysis showed a positive effect of dance therapy on exercise capacity and reduction of SBP and DBP in individuals with hypertension. However, the moderate to high heterogeneity found in our analysis limits a pragmatic recommendation of dance therapy in individuals with hypertension.


The meta-analysis of dance/movement therapy research findings by Ritter and Low (1996) (in this issue) addressed a critical need to support the effectiveness of this treatment modality. As managed-care companies invade clinical settings, dance therapists are being asked to provide empirical support for the effectiveness of their treatment. Quantitative research and quantitative integration of research findings are widely accepted as empirical evidence across many disciplines. Correspondingly, a meta-analytic aggregation of dance therapy research enhances the professional acceptance of this form of treatment by providing recognized empirical validation. A meta-analytic study, even in an area with a limited body of research, is extremely labor intensive. Unfortunately, errors of calculation and interpretation of the data were made that should be corrected in order for Ritter and Low’s (1996) work to document accurately the effectiveness of dance/movement therapy.


Verfahren identifiziert werden: Entspannungsverfahren, Verbesserung der sozialen Kompetenz, Ergotherapie, künstlerische Therapien (Musiktherapie, Kunsttherapie, Tanz- und Bewegungstherapie), körperpsychotherapeutische Verfahren und Massage.

Fazit: Durch das beschriebene Vorgehen konnten verschiedene Behandlungselemente mit unterschiedlichen Evidenzgraden für die Behandlung von Patienten mit Depression identifiziert werden. Die hier dargestellten Ergebnisse sollen in einem nächsten Schritt im Rahmen einer systematischen Beteiligung von Experten für die Entwicklung einer Prozessleitlinie verwendet werden.

Abstract. Background: In recent years, the importance of guidelines has increased continuously. This development also occurs in the field of rehabilitative health care, where process guidelines are being designed for various indicational groups to ensure quality standards and improvements.

Aim: The primary goal of this paper is to collect and evaluate the evidence for various treatment options for depressive disorders in order to establish a basis for the current development of a process guideline for the rehabilitation of patients with depressive disorders.

Method: In order to identify evidence based treatment elements, first a comprehensive investigation of national and international guidelines was conducted. Thirteen selected guidelines were then assessed with regard to aspects of methodological quality and evidence-based treatment elements. In a further step, literature searches were conducted for residual treatment elements, which were identified on the basis of the Classification of Therapeutic Services (KTL) 2007. For the literature search, a hierarchical approach was chosen: At first, meta-analyses and systematic reviews were viewed. In case when there was still a lack of evidence for specific, potentially relevant treatment elements, the search was expanded to the level of primary studies. All selected reviews and primary studies then underwent a standardized assessment especially regarding methodological quality and evidence grades were allocated to treatments.

Results: Thereby, the following treatment elements with an adequate level of evidence were identified: Psychotherapeutic interventions, marital/couples/family therapy and counselling, inclusion of family members, psycho education and exercise, problem solving therapy, guided self-help, and behavioural activation treatments. On the basis of this complementary literature search, various other evident interventions could be identified within the following areas: relaxation techniques, improvement of social competence, occupational therapy, art therapies (music, movement/dance therapies), body-oriented therapies and massage therapy.

Conclusion: In summary, using this hierarchical approach, it was possible to assign different levels of evidence to the various treatment elements for depression. Based on the results of this literature search, a next step in the development of a process guideline for the rehabilitative treatment of patients with depression will be the integration of experts in the field of rehabilitation.

Key words. depression - evidence-based treatment - literature review – guidelines


Abstract. Introduction: Deficits of balance or postural control in persons of advanced age are one of the factors that influence the risk of falling. The most appropriate treatment approaches and their benefits are still unknown.
Objective. The aim of this article is to systematically review the scientific literature to identify the therapeutic effects of dancing as a physical exercise modality on balance, flexibility, gait, muscle strength and physical performance in older adults.

Methods. A systematic search of Pubmed, Cochrane Library Plus, PEDro, Science Direct, Dialnet and Academic Search Complete using the search terms “dance”, “older”, “dance therapy”, “elderly”, “balance”, “gait” and “motor skills”. The eligibility criteria were: studies written in English and Spanish, published from January 2000 to January 2013, studies which analyzed the effects of dance (ballroom dance and/or dance based exercise) in older adults over 60 years of age with no disabling disease and included the following variables of study: balance, gait, risk of falls, strength, functionality, flexibility and quality of life.

Results. 123 articles were found in the literature. A final selection of seven articles was used for the present manuscript. Although the selected studies showed positive effects on the risk of falling related to factors (balance, gait and dynamic mobility, strength and physical performance), there were some aspects of the studies such as the methodological quality, the small sample size, the lack of homogeneity in relation to the variables and the measurement tools, and the existing diversity regarding the study design and the type of dance, that do not enable us to confirm that dance has significant benefits on these factors based on the scientific evidence.

Subjects. Aging physiology; Dancing physiology; Gait physiology; Motor Skills physiology; Muscle Strength physiology; Postural Balance physiology; Adult: 19-44 years; Aged: 65+ years; Middle Aged: 45-64 years; All Adult: 19+ years; Female

Keywords. Dance therapy; Elderly; Balance; Gait; Older adults


Abstract. Objective: To see whether dance therapy was more effective than conventional exercise in exercise capacity and health-related quality of life (HRQOL) in patients with chronic heart failure.

Design and methods: Systematic review and meta-analysis. We searched MEDLINE, Cochrane Controlled Trials Register, EMBASE, SPORT Scielo, CINAHL (from the earliest date available to August 2013) for randomized controlled trials (RCTs), examining effects of dance therapy versus exercise and/or dance therapy versus control on exercise capacity (VO2peak), and quality-of-life (QOL) in chronic heart failure. Two reviewers selected studies independently. Weighted mean differences (WMDs) and 95% confidence intervals (CIs) were calculated, and heterogeneity was assessed using the I(2) test.

Results: Two studies met the study criteria (62 dance therapy patients, 60 exercise patients and 61 controls patients). The results suggested that dance therapy compared with control had a positive impact on peak VO2 and HRQOL. Dance therapy resulted in improvement in: peak VO2 peak weighted mean difference (4.86 95% CI: 2.81 to 6.91) and global HRQOL standardized mean differences (2.09 95% CI: 1.65 to 2.54). Non-significant difference in VO2 peak and HRQOL for participants in the exercise group compared with dance therapy. No serious adverse events were reported.

Conclusions: Dance therapy may improve peak VO2 and HRQOL in patients with chronic heart failure (CHF) and could be considered for inclusion in cardiac rehabilitation programmes.

Keywords: Exercise tolerance, quality of life, cardiac failure, dance

Abstract. Background. There is a need to find meaningful and engaging interventions to improve mood and behaviour for residents of care homes. The demand on care staff might diminish opportunities for them to encourage these activities. Staff anecdotal information attests that dancing as an activity improves mood in residents and staff. Hence, the importance of investigating what dancing brings to the care home social environment.

Aims. To provide a systematic review of the evidence from studies related to dancing interventions for older people with dementia living in care homes.

Method. Electronic databases were searched. Previous reviews were also included, and recognised experts were consulted up to January 2012. Inclusion criteria considered study methodology and evidence that the impact of the dance intervention had been measured.

Results. Ten studies were identified that satisfied the inclusion criteria: seven qualitative and three quantitative. Studies used different approaches such as therapeutic dance, dance movement therapy, dance therapy, social dancing and psychomotor dance-based exercise. There was evidence that problematic behaviours decreased; social interaction and enjoyment in both residents and care staff improved. A few adverse effects were also acknowledged.

Conclusion. The evidence on the efficacy of dancing in care homes is limited in part owing to the methodological challenges facing such research. This review aims to raise awareness of the possibility of implementing dance work as an engaging activity in care homes. We shall also consider options for future dance work research as a means to encourage relationships and sensory stimulation for both residents and staff.


Abstract. Breast cancer and gynaecological cancer are two major diagnoses affecting women worldwide. Clinical research on arts-based approaches for these populations has gained a growing interest in the last decade with promising results. The purpose of this study was (a) to review evidence of arts-based approaches involving creative arts therapy (CAT) and arts medicine (AM) on psychological outcomes in women of both populations and (b) to evaluate the reporting of arts-based interventions. This systematic review examined randomized controlled trials and quasirandomized controlled studies with repeated measures. Researchers assessed each study for risk of bias using GRADE. A checklist called Reporting on Arts-Based Interventions was developed and applied to all studies included in this review. Researchers computed effect sizes for relevant outcomes. Searches identified 294 items producing 104 nonduplicate titles. Twenty-one items met inclusion criteria. These included a total of 1,703 participants (83.1% breast cancer, 16.9% gynecological cancer). CAT was applied in 10 papers (n = 646); AM in 11 (n = 1,057). For gynecological cancer, only two AM studies were found and no CAT studies were identified. Anxiety and depression were the most prevalent outcomes for both approaches across all studies. Overall, small to large effect sizes were found for AM studies and null to large effect sizes for CAT studies. Body image and sexuality were scarcely addressed. Intervention reporting was inadequate. The results suggest that arts-based interventions may be effective for improving psychological outcomes for targeted populations.
Research for gynecological cancer patients is recommended, as are trials aimed at improving body image and addressing sexual function and related concerns. Enhanced quality of methodology and intervention reporting are critical.

Highlights. • Lack of findings for body image and sexuality. • No trials in creative arts therapy on gynaecological cancer. • Insufficient quality in arts-based intervention reporting. • Diversity of interventions in different phases of trajectory.

Keywords. Systematic review; Psychological outcomes; Creative arts therapy; Arts medicine; Breast cancer; Gynecological cancer


Abstract. This article describes an evaluation of the effectiveness of Disarming the Playground (2002), a school-based violence prevention curriculum. The program was developed and implemented by Rena Kornblum, a dance/movement therapist working in the Madison, WI public schools. Disarming the Playground is unique among such programs in its body-based approach. A review of the literature focuses on recent evaluations and reviews of other school-based violence prevention programs, as well as large-scale meta-analyses of and guides to such program evaluations. A mixed method evaluation of the Kornblum curriculum's effectiveness was conducted with second grade students. Statistical findings indicated significant positive outcomes, and qualitative findings pointed toward reasons for its effectiveness, as well as methods of improving evaluation and delivery of the curriculum.


Highlights. • Dance/Movement Therapy (DMT) may improve social interaction, communication and cognitive functions. • DMT seems to increase quality of life and expressiveness. • Methodological quality varies from low to high. • Insufficient evidence exists that DMT improves mental health disorders. • More high quality studies on the efficacy of DMT in older age psychiatry are needed.

Abstract. This systematic review assessed the published literature on dance movement therapy interventions with adults aged 60 years and older with a mental health disorder. Our objective was to identify published studies of the effects of DMT in older age psychiatry and to critically appraise methodological quality of the included studies. We searched the databases CINAHL, MEDLINE, PsycINFO, and PSYNDEX, and Google Scholar. We also searched the reference list of relevant papers in order to identify publications that were not found through the initial database search. The reviewers independently critically appraised all full text articles that met our inclusion criteria. A final 16 studies met the inclusion criteria: nine were primary studies (one randomized controlled trial, three quasi-experimental studies, and five qualitative studies) and seven were secondary studies (systematic reviews). Dementia was the subject in 15 studies, and depression in one, reflecting a possible bias in the literature. The methodological quality of the primary studies was lower than for the secondary studies.

Keywords. Dance movement therapy; Older adults; Older age psychiatry; Mental disorders; Systematic review

Karkou, V., & Meekums, B. (2017). Dance movement therapy for dementia. Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews, Vol. 2; Cochrane AN: CD011022; PMID: 28155990,
Abstract. Background. Dementia is a collective name for different degenerative brain syndromes which, according to Alzheimer's Disease International, affects approximately 35.6 million people worldwide. The latest NICE guideline for dementia highlights the value of diverse treatment options for the different stages and symptoms of dementia including non-pharmacological treatments. Relevant literature also argues for the value of interventions that acknowledge the complexity of the condition and address the person as a whole, including their physical, emotional, social and cognitive processes. At the same time, there is growing literature that highlights the capacity of the arts and embodied practices to address this complexity. Dance movement therapy is an embodied psychological intervention that can address complexity and thus, may be useful for people with dementia, but its effectiveness remains unclear.

Objectives. To assess the effects of dance movement therapy on behavioural, social, cognitive and emotional symptoms of people with dementia in comparison to no treatment, standard care or any other treatment. Also, to compare different forms of dance movement therapy (e.g. Laban-based dance movement therapy, Chacian dance movement therapy or Authentic Movement).

Search methods. Searches took place up to March 2016 through ALOIS, Cochrane Dementia and Cognitive Improvement’s Specialized Register, which covers CENTRAL, a number of major healthcare databases and trial registers, and grey literature sources. We checked bibliographies of relevant studies and reviews, and contacted professional associations, educational programmes and experts from around the world.

Selection criteria. We considered randomised controlled trials (RCTs) in any language, including cross-over design and cluster-RCTs for inclusion. Studies considered had to include people with dementia, in any age group and in any setting, with interventions delivered by a dance movement therapy practitioner who (i) had received formal training (ii) was a dance movement therapist in training or (iii) was otherwise recognised as a dance movement therapist in the country in which the study was conducted.

Data collection and analysis. The two review authors independently reviewed studies on an abstract/title level and again after reading the full paper, and we independently evaluated methodological quality.

Main results. Of the 102 studies identified through electronic searches and personal communication, after de-duplication we screened 80 at title/abstract level. We then reviewed 19 full papers, none of which met the inclusion criteria. Although three studies mentioned dance movement therapy as their intervention, they were excluded because they were not delivered by a qualified dance movement therapy practitioner. As a result, no studies were included in this review.

Authors’ conclusions. Trials of high methodological quality, large sample sizes and clarity in the way the intervention is put together and delivered are needed to assess whether dance movement therapy is an effective intervention for dementia.


Abstract. This systematic review aims to evaluate the effects of dance (movement) therapy and ballroom dances as therapeutic interventions for adults with physical and mental illnesses in comparison to other interventions or care as usual. A systematic literature search for randomized controlled trials examining dance therapy and ballroom dances published between 1995 and 2011 was carried out in the electronic databases MEDLINE and PsycINFO. 13 publications reporting results from 11 randomized trials (predominantly from USA and Scandinavia) were identified with mostly small samples. They examined breast cancer (n = 2), dementia (n = 1), Parkinson's disease (n = 2), heart failure (n = 1), diabetes type 2 (n
Dance (movement) therapy had a positive impact for patients with breast cancer, improving quality of life, shoulder range of motion and body image. In patients with depression psychological distress was reduced by dance therapy. Ballroom dances improved balance and coordination in patients with Parkinson's disease and disease-specific quality of life in patients with heart failure. Dance (movement) therapy and ballroom dances seem beneficial for patients with breast cancer, depression, Parkinson's disease, diabetes and heart failure. However, further good quality research is needed to gain more profound insight into the efficacy of these treatment options.

**Highlights.**
- Systematic review of dance (movement) therapy and ballroom dances as a therapeutic intervention for adults.
- 13 RCTs were identified with mostly small samples.
- Dance (movement) therapy had a positive impact for patients with breast cancer, improving quality of life as well as for patients with depression, decreasing psychological distress.
- Ballroom dances such as Tango improved balance and coordination in patients with Parkinson and cardiopulmonary training in patients with heart failure grades I and II.

**Keywords.** Ballroom dances; Dance; Dance (movement) therapy; Randomized controlled trials; Systematic review


**Highlights.**
- Meta-analysis of DMT interventions and the therapeutic use of dance.
- Provides a systematic summary of the last 20 years of research findings.
- Includes effects of 23 evidence-based primary studies for 15 populations (N = 1078).
- Shows moderate effects for quality of life and clinical outcomes (depression, anxiety).
- Yields small but consistent effects for improvement of well-being, mood, affect, and body image.

**Abstract.** In this meta-analysis, we evaluated the effectiveness of dance movement therapy (DMT) and the therapeutic use of dance for the treatment of health-related psychological problems. Research in the field of DMT is growing, and 17 years have passed since the last and only general meta-analysis on DMT (Ritter & Low, 1996) was conducted. This study examines the current state of knowledge regarding the effectiveness of DMT and dance from 23 primary trials (N = 1078) on the variables of quality of life, body image, well-being, and clinical outcomes, with sub-analysis of depression, anxiety, and interpersonal competence. Results suggest that DMT and dance are effective for increasing quality of life and decreasing clinical symptoms such as depression and anxiety. Positive effects were also found on the increase of subjective well-being, positive mood, affect, and body image. Effects for interpersonal competence were encouraging, but due to the heterogeneity of the data remained inconclusive. Methodological shortcomings of many primary studies limit these encouraging results and, therefore, further investigations to strengthen and expand upon evidence-based research in DMT are necessary. Implications of the findings for health care, research, and practice are discussed.

**Keywords:** Dance movement therapy; Therapeutic use of dance; Meta-analysis; Review of evidence-based research; Randomized controlled trials; Integrative medicine

Langhorst J; Häuser W; Bernardy K; Lucius H; Settan M; Winkelmann A; Musial F. (2012). [Complementary and alternative therapies for fibromyalgia syndrome. Systematic review, meta-analysis and guideline].

Abstract. Depression affects 121 million people worldwide (WHO, 2010). The socio-economic repercussions of depression are putting an enormous strain on UK and US governmental health budgets. Regarding treatment interventions, D/MT and other arts therapies are widely practiced around the world as a treatment of choice for depression. Research evidence suggests that exercise has positive effects on mood. Similarly, it has been argued that dance has a positive social-cultural influence on a person’s wellbeing. However there are no systematic reviews that support the effectiveness of D/MT for people with a diagnosis of depression. It is therefore important to map the field of existing research studies of D/MT for depression. In this paper a scoping review is presented that engaged with an extensive search to best answer the question: is there good quality research evidence available regarding the effectiveness of D/MT and related fields for the treatment of depression? A search strategy was developed to locate publications from electronic databases, websites, arts therapies organizations and associations using specified criteria for including and excluding studies. All studies meeting the inclusion criteria were then evaluated for their quality, using broad criteria of quality such as type of methodology followed, number of participants, relevance of interventions and specific comparisons made and outcome measures. A total of nine studies were found. Six studies followed a randomized controlled trial design, and three adopted a non randomized design. At least one study met most criteria of quality. We concluded that there was a need to undertake a full systematic review of the literature and to follow a Cochrane Review protocol and procedures.

Highlights. ► Scoping review of literature for dance movement psychotherapy and depression. ► The growth of depression as a global burden. ► Extensive search strategy across publications and databases. ► Nine studies found; six studies followed a randomized controlled trial design, and three adopted a non randomized design. ► We conclude the absence of full randomization and the need for a full systematic review of the literature through completing a Cochrane Review (title accepted).

Keywords: Dance/Movement Therapy, Dance movement psychotherapy, Depression, Effectiveness, Systematic review, Randomized controlled trials


Abstract. Objective To review and assess effectiveness of sport and dance participation on subjective well-being outcomes among healthy young people aged 15–24 years.

Design Systematic review.

Methods We searched for studies published in any language between January 2006 and September 2016 on PsychINFO, Ovid MEDLINE, Eric, Web of Science (Arts and Humanities Citation Index, Social
Science and Science Citation Index), Scopus, PILOTS, CINAHL, SPORTDiscus and International Index to Performing Arts. Additionally, we searched for unpublished (grey) literature via an online call for evidence, expert contribution, searches of key organisation websites and the British Library ETHOS database, and a keyword Google search. Published studies of sport or dance interventions for healthy young people aged 15–24 years where subjective well-being was measured were included. Studies were excluded if participants were paid professionals or elite athletes, or if the intervention was clinical sport/dance therapy. Two researchers extracted data and assessed strength and quality of evidence using criteria in the What Works Centre for Wellbeing methods guide and GRADE, and using standardised reporting forms. Due to clinical heterogeneity between studies, meta-analysis was not appropriate. Grey literature in the form of final evaluation reports on empirical data relating to sport or dance interventions were included.

Results Eleven out of 6587 articles were included (7 randomised controlled trials and 1 cohort study, and 3 unpublished grey evaluation reports). Published literature suggests meditative physical activity (yoga and Baduanjin Qigong) and group-based or peer-supported sport and dance has some potential to improve subjective well-being. Grey literature suggests sport and dance improve subjective well-being but identify negative feelings of competency and capability. The amount and quality of published evidence on sport and dance interventions to enhance subjective well-being is low.

Conclusions Meditative activities, group and peer-supported sport and dance may promote subjective well-being enhancement in youth. Evidence is limited. Better designed studies are needed.


Abstract. Stress is one of the world’s largest health problems, leading to exhaustion, burnout, anxiety, a weak immune system, or even organ damage. In Germany, stress-induced work absenteeism costs about 20 billion Euros per year. Therefore, it is not surprising that the Central Federal Association of the public Health Insurance Funds in Germany ascribes particular importance to stress prevention and stress management as well as health enhancing measures. Building on current integrative and embodied stress theories, Creative Arts Therapies (CATs) or arts interventions are an innovative way to prevent stress and improve stress management. CATs encompass art, music, dance/movement, and drama therapy as their four major modalities. In order to obtain an overview of CATs and arts interventions’ efficacy in the context of stress reduction and management, we conducted a systematic review with a search in the following data bases: Academic Search Complete, ERIC, Medline, Psycindex, PsycINFO and SocINDEX. Studies were included employing the PICOS principle and rated according to their evidence level. We included 37 studies, 73% of which were randomized controlled trials. 81.1% of the included studies reported a significant reduction of stress in the participants due to interventions of one of the four arts modalities. View Full-Text

Keywords: creative arts therapies; arts interventions; art; music; dance; drama; stress management; prevention; systematic review


Abstract. The myth of Robin Hood is used to explore the possible dynamics between arts therapies researchers, and in particular dance movement therapy researchers, and the world of science. As
professions positioned in relation to science, arts therapists are in danger of splitting and denigration on the one hand, or appeasement on the other. The case is made for a new way forward that includes making use of what arts therapists do well in terms of creativity and embodied knowing, whilst reaching out into multidisciplinary and international research partnerships. The imperative to evidence arts therapies practice has never been more urgent. Three forms of evidence are explored: Randomised Controlled Trials and systematic reviews of these; process research; and practice-based evidence from more than one practitioner using a core data set of outcome measurement. A case study is offered to demonstrate how routine outcome measures can be used to gather evidence that links outcome to process.

Subjects: Dance Therapy; Evidence Based Practice; Movement Therapy
Keywords. Dance movement therapy; research; Science; Embodied knowing; Practice based evidence; Process


Abstract. Background. Depression is a debilitating condition affecting more than 350 million people worldwide (WHO 2012) with a limited number of evidence-based treatments. Drug treatments may be inappropriate due to side effects and cost, and not everyone can use talking therapies. There is a need for evidence-based treatments that can be applied across cultures and with people who find it difficult to verbally articulate thoughts and feelings. Dance movement therapy (DMT) is used with people from a range of cultural and intellectual backgrounds, but effectiveness remains unclear.

Objectives. To examine the effects of DMT for depression with or without standard care, compared to no treatment or standard care alone, psychological therapies, drug treatment, or other physical interventions. Also, to compare the effectiveness of different DMT approaches.

Search methods. The Cochrane Depression, Anxiety and Neurosis Review Group's Specialised Register (CCDANCTR-Studies and CCDANCTR-References) and CINAHL were searched (to 2 Oct 2014) together with the World Health Organization's International Clinical Trials Registry Platform (WHO ICTRP) and ClinicalTrials.gov. The review authors also searched the Allied and Complementary Medicine Database (AMED), the Education Resources Information Center (ERIC) and Dissertation Abstracts (to August 2013), handsearched bibliographies, contacted professional associations, educational programmes and dance therapy experts worldwide.

Selection criteria. Inclusion criteria were: randomised controlled trials (RCTs) studying outcomes for people of any age with depression as defined by the trialist, with at least one group being DMT. DMT was defined as: participatory dance movement with clear psychotherapeutic intent, facilitated by an individual with a level of training that could be reasonably expected within the country in which the trial was conducted. For example, in the USA this would either be a trainee, or qualified and credentialed by the American Dance Therapy Association (ADTA). In the UK, the therapist would either be in training with, or accredited by, the Association for Dance Movement Psychotherapy (ADMP, UK). Similar professional bodies exist in Europe, but in some countries (e.g. China) where the profession is in development, a lower level of qualification would mirror the situation some decades previously in the USA or UK. Hence, the review authors accepted a relevant professional qualification (e.g. nursing or psychodynamic therapies) plus a clear description of the treatment that would indicate its adherence to published guidelines including Levy 1992, ADMP UK 2015, Meekums 2002, and Karkou 2006.
Data collection and analysis. Study methodological quality was evaluated and data were extracted independently by the first two review authors using a data extraction form, the third author acting as an arbitrator.

Main results. Three studies totalling 147 participants (107 adults and 40 adolescents) met the inclusion criteria. Seventy-four participants took part in DMT treatment, while 73 comprised the control groups. Two studies included male and female adults with depression. One of these studies included outpatient participants; the other study was conducted with inpatients at an urban hospital. The third study reported findings with female adolescents in a middle-school setting. All included studies collected continuous data using two different depression measures: the clinician-completed Hamilton Depression Rating Scale (HAM-D); and the Symptom Checklist-90-R (SCL-90-R) (self-rating scale). Statistical heterogeneity was identified between the three studies. There was no reliable effect of DMT on depression (SMD -0.67 95% CI -1.40 to 0.05; very low quality evidence). A planned subgroup analysis indicated a positive effect in adults, across two studies, 107 participants, but this failed to meet clinical significance (SMD -7.33 95% CI -9.92 to -4.73). One adult study reported drop-out rates, found to be non-significant with an odds ratio of 1.82 [95% CI 0.35 to 9.45]; low quality evidence. One study measured social functioning, demonstrating a large positive effect (MD -6.80 95% CI -11.44 to -2.16; very low quality evidence), but this result was imprecise. One study showed no effect in either direction for quality of life (0.30 95% CI -0.60 to 1.20; low quality evidence) or self esteem (1.70 95% CI -2.36 to 5.76; low quality evidence).

Authors’ conclusions. The low-quality evidence from three small trials with 147 participants does not allow any firm conclusions to be drawn regarding the effectiveness of DMT for depression. Larger trials of high methodological quality are needed to assess DMT for depression, with economic analyses and acceptability measures and for all age groups.


Resumen: Objetivo: Conocer el estado actual de la eficacia de las terapias artísticas y creativas (TAC) en las variables de malestar psicológico de mujeres con cáncer de mama y delimitarla en función del tipo de TAC y momento terapéutico del paciente. Método: La búsqueda se realizó mediante las bases de datos Pubmed, Web of Science, Psychinfo y Google Academic para el periodo 2010-2016. Resultados: Se obtienen 9 estudios RTC y cuasi-experimentales controlados (2 de Danza movimiento terapia, 1 de Arte Terapia, 1 de Musicoterapia y 5 de Escucha musical) que incluyen 680 participantes. Se discute la calidad metodológica, el riesgo de sesgo y las medidas de eficacia terapéutica. Conclusiones: Las TAC parecen ser una ayuda complementaria a corto plazo durante la fase de tratamiento en cáncer de mama. Sin embargo, son necesarios más ensayos para aclarar los mecanismos subyacentes a la mejora, así como delimitar la eficacia de cada modalidad. Palabras clave: Cáncer de mama, terapia artística, terapia creativa, musicoterapia, terapia con música, danza movimiento terapia, arte terapia.

Abstract: Objective: To know the current state of the effectiveness of artistic and creative therapies (ACTs) over psychological distress of women with breast cancer and to delimit it according to the type of CT and the therapeutic moment of the patient. Method: The search was performed using Pubmed, Web of Science, Psychinfo and Google Academic databases for the period 2010-2016. Results: nine controlled
RTC and quasi-experimental studies (2 of Dance movement therapy, 1 of Art Therapy, 1 of Music therapy and 5 of Musical Listening) were obtained, including 680 participants. Methodological quality, risk of bias and measures of therapeutic efficacy are discussed. Conclusions: ACT scans seem to be short-term complementary aid during the treatment phase in breast cancer. However, more trials are needed to clarify the mechanisms underlying the improvement as well as to delimit the effectiveness of each modality.

Keywords: Breast cancer, creative therapy, artistic therapy, music therapy, dance movement therapy, art therapy.


Abstract. Background. Dance therapy or dance movement therapy (DMT) is defined as 'the psychotherapeutic use of movement as a process which furthers the emotional, social, cognitive, and physical integration of the individual'. It may be of value for people with developmental, medical, social, physical or psychological impairments. Dance therapy can be practiced in mental health rehabilitation units, nursing homes, day care centres and incorporated into disease prevention and health promotion programmes.

Objectives. To evaluate the effects of dance therapy for people with schizophrenia or schizophrenia-like illnesses compared with standard care and other interventions.

Search methods. We updated the original July 2007 search of the Cochrane Schizophrenia Group' register in July 2012. We also searched Chinese main medical databases.

Selection criteria. We included one randomised controlled trial (RCT) comparing dance therapy and related approaches with standard care or other psychosocial interventions for people with schizophrenia.

Data collection and analysis. We reliably selected, quality assessed and extracted data. For continuous outcomes, we calculated a mean difference (MD); for binary outcomes we calculated a fixed-effect risk ratio (RR) and their 95% confidence intervals (CI). We created a 'Summary of findings' table using the GRADE approach.

Main results. We included one single blind study (total n = 45) of reasonable quality. It compared dance therapy plus routine care with routine care alone. Most people tolerated the treatment package but nearly 40% were lost in both groups by four months (1 RCT n = 45, RR 0.68 95% CI 0.31 to 1.51, low quality evidence). The Positive and Negative Syndrome Scale (PANSS) average endpoint total scores were similar in both groups (1 RCT n = 43, MD -0.50 95% CI -11.80 to 10.80, moderate quality evidence) as were the positive sub-scores (1 RCT n = 43, MD 2.50 CI -0.67 to 5.67, moderate quality evidence). At the end of treatment, significantly more people in the dance therapy group had a greater than 20% reduction in PANSS negative symptom score (1 RCT n = 45, RR 0.62 CI 0.39 to 0.97, moderate quality evidence), and overall, average negative endpoint scores were lower (1 RCT n = 43, MD -4.40 CI -8.15 to -0.65, moderate quality evidence). There was no difference in satisfaction score (average Client's Assessment of Treatment Scale (CAT) score, 1 RCT n = 42, MD 0.40 CI -0.78 to 1.58, moderate quality evidence) and quality of life data were also equivocal (average Manchester Short Assessment of Quality of life (Mansa) score, 1 RCT n = 39, MD 0.00 CI -0.48 to 0.48, moderate quality evidence).

Authors' conclusions. Based on predominantly moderate quality data, there is no evidence to support - or refute - the use of dance therapy in this group of people. This therapy remains unproven and those with
schizophrenia, their carers, trialists and funders of research may wish to encourage future work to increase high quality evidence in this area.


The expansion of the field of dance/movement therapy (DMT) since the founding of the American Dance Therapy Association (ADTA) by Marian Chace has led to an increasing interest in DMT research (Rossberg-Gempton & Poole, 1992). The ADTA has defined DMT as the, “use of movement as a process which furthers physical and emotional integration of an individual” (Sandel, 1975, p. 439). Research on the effects of DMT, however, has primarily consisted of qualitative and exploratory clinical reports. The present study addresses methodological problems that have affected the DMT literature and evaluates quantitative studies of DMT using meta-analytic techniques. Meta-analysis is a statistical technique used to summarize a collection of related studies. Such analyses have often been used to assess the effectiveness of psychotherapy for specific disorders by averaging effects across similar studies (e.g., Smith & Glass, 1977). Effect sizes assessing the magnitude of a relationship or change are calculated for each intervention study. These effect sizes are then standardized and averaged across studies to produce a summary statistic that reflects the average change associated with the intervention. The purpose of the present study was to calculate standardized effect sizes for case-control studies of dance/movement therapy and to produce summary statistics reflecting the average change associated with DMT compared to controls. The study also examined the effectiveness of DMT in different samples (e.g., children, psychiatric patients, elderly) and for varying diagnoses (anxiety disorders, schizophrenia, developmental disabilities) using meta-analysis.


Validierung von Instrumenten, mit denen Parameter wie z. B. Lebendigkeit und Interaktionsfähigkeit quantitativ abgebildet werden können.

Schlüsselwörter: Demenzen - Kreative Therapien – Studienübersicht

Abstract: The specifics of creative therapies aim at activating the creative potential of the patients in the sense of acceptance, orientation and coping with their illness “dementia” and at improving their quality of life. Creative therapies in the treatment of dementia offer the advantage of working with these patients, whose cognition and often also verbal communication skills are affected in a nonverbal way. This article presents a systematic review of studies and case studies, which could be found on the subject of the implementation of active creative therapies “music-, art-, drama- and dance-therapy” within the following databases (05/05): Medline, Psyndex Plus, PsychInfo and Cochrane. The search terms used were: “Creativ* and therapy and dementia and (stud*)”, “Dance therapy and dementia”, “Music therapy and dementia”, “Drama therapy and dementia” and “Art therapy and dementia”. As a result of this search we found seven quantitative evaluated controlled studies, three prae-post comparisons and three qualitative evaluated studies which have been finished since 1998. All of these studies included groups of at least three participants. Further reviews are mentioned in this article. This survey of studies on creative therapies for patients with dementia shows positive effects like the improvement of interaction skills. The data supplied thus supports the approach of using creative therapies in order to help patients accept dementia as their illness and finally to cope with it. The methodical approach to the registration of the therapies’ effects and process-orientated contents of the therapy create a field of tension, leading to the request for a further development and validation of instruments, which allow the quantitative evaluation of parameters like liveliness, agility and interaction skills. Subjects: Dementia therapy; Psychotherapy; Aged: 65+ years; Middle Aged: 45-64 years; All Adult: 19+ years

Key words: dementia - creative therapies - review

Strassel, J. K., Cherkin, D. C., Steuten, L., Sherman, K. J., & Vrijhoef, H. J. (2011). A systematic review of the evidence for the effectiveness of dance therapy. Alternative Therapies in Health & Medicine, 17(3). Abstract. Background • Dance therapy uses psychotherapeutic movement to support the cognitive, emotional, physical, and social integration of a person. Dance therapy may be of value for people with developmental, medical, social, physical, or psychological impairments. Objectives • To evaluate the hypothesis that dance therapy has therapeutic benefits by systematically analyzing and summarizing the evidence. Methods • Thirteen databases were searched for systematic reviews and randomized controlled trials (RCTs) on the effectiveness of dance therapy. The Overall Quality Assessment Questionnaire (OQAQ) was used to assess review quality, and RCT quality was assessed using the Jadad Scale. Results: Eight reviews and 18 RCTs about the effectiveness of dance therapy met our inclusion criteria. According to the OQAQ seven of the eight reviews were of poor methodological quality. The quality of the RCTs ranged from poor to good. In most cases, the reviews and trials reported positive benefits related to improvements in quality of life, self-esteem, or coping with a disease. Conclusion • Most studies have found therapeutic benefits of dance therapy, although these results are based on generally poor-quality evidence. Dance therapy should be considered as a potentially relevant add-on therapy for a variety of conditions that do not respond well to conventional medical treatments. Well-performed RCTs and observational studies are highly recommended to determine the real value of dance therapy. [ABSTRACT FROM AUTHOR]

Highlights. • Dance is a popular form of physical activity with multiple health benefits. • We conducted a systematic review of randomized controlled trials considering the benefits of dance on falls and fear of falling in older adults. • There was inconsistent or no evidence to support the benefits of dance on falls. • There was some indication that dance may reduce fear of falling. • The paucity of randomized controlled trials, heterogeneity of samples, interventions and lack of long-term follow-up preclude any firm conclusions.

Abstract. Falls are a leading cause of morbidity, healthcare use and mortality. Dance is a popular form of physical activity among older people and previous research has suggested that it may improve various health outcomes in this population, including balance, gait and muscle performance. A systematic review of the potential benefits of dance on falls and fear of falling is lacking. Thus, we conducted a systematic review considering all randomized controls trials (RCTs) investigating if dance can reduce falls and improve fear of falling in older adults. Major databases were searched from inception until 1 March 2017 and a total of 10 RCTs were identified, which included a total of 680 people (n = 356 dance, n = 324 control). Overall, the mean age of the samples was 69.4 years, and 75.2% were female. Across four RCTs, dance therapy reduced falls versus usual care in only one study. Dance therapy improved fear of falling in two out of three included RCTs. There were no serious adverse events reported in the RCTs. In summary, we found a paucity of studies investigating the effect of dance on falls and fear of falling and the evidence base is preliminary and equivocal. Given the heterogeneity of the included samples and interventions, in addition to the short-term follow-up, no firm conclusions can be drawn. However, dance appears to be safe and, given its popularity and demonstrated benefits on other health/wellbeing outcomes in older adults, it is important that future research considers its potential benefits on falls/fear of falling in older.

Keywords. Dancing; Falls; Older people; Fear of falling; Systematic review

Xia, J., & Grant, T. J. (2009). Dance therapy for schizophrenia. Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews, (1).

Abstract. Background. Dance therapy or dance movement therapy (DMT) is defined as 'the psychotherapeutic use of movement as a process which furthers the emotional, social, cognitive, and physical integration of the individual'. It may be of value for people with developmental, medical, social, physical or psychological impairments. Dance therapy can be practiced in mental health rehabilitation units, nursing homes, day care centres and incorporated into disease prevention and health promotion programs.

Objectives. To evaluate the effects of dance therapy for people with schizophrenia or schizophrenia-like illnesses compared with standard care and other interventions.

Search methods. We searched the Cochrane Schizophrenia Group Trials Register (July 2007), inspected references of all identified studies (included and excluded), and contacted first authors for additional data.
We updated this search on 10th July 2012 and added the results to the awaiting classification section of the review.

Selection criteria. We included all randomised controlled trials (RCTs) comparing dance therapy and related approaches with standard care or other psychosocial interventions for people with schizophrenia.

Data collection and analysis. We reliably selected, quality assessed and extracted data. We excluded data where more than 30% of participants were lost to follow-up. For continuous outcomes we calculated a weighted mean difference; for binary outcomes we calculated a fixed-effect risk ratio (RR) and their 95% confidence intervals (CI).

Main results. We included one single blind study (total n=45) of reasonable quality. It compared dance therapy plus routine care with routine care alone. Most people tolerated the treatment package but about 40% were lost in each group by four months (RR 0.68 CI 0.31 to 1.51). PANSS average endpoint total scores were similar in each group (WMD -0.50 CI -11.8 to 10.8) as were the positive subscores (WMD 2.50 CI -0.67 to 5.67). At the end of treatment significantly more people in the dance therapy group had a greater than 20% reduction in PANSS negative symptom score (RR 0.62 CI 0.39 to 0.97), and overall average negative endpoint scores were lower (WMD -4.40 CI -8.15 to 0.65). There was no difference in satisfaction score (average CAT score, WMD 0.40 CI -0.78 to 1.58) and quality of life data were also equivocal (average MANSA score, WMD 0.00 CI -0.48 to 0.48).

Authors’ conclusions. There is no evidence to support - or refute - the use of dance therapy in this group of people. This therapy remains unproven and those with schizophrenia, their carers, trialists and funders of research may wish to encourage future work to increase high quality evidence in this area.

[Note: the citation in the awaiting classification section of the review may alter the conclusions of the review once assessed.]


Abstract. Background: Cancer centers have increasingly offered integrative medicine therapies in response to their patients’ unmet needs. We evaluated the growth of integrative medicine in leading academic cancer centers in the United States as reflected by their public-facing websites.

Methods. We performed a systematic review of 45 National Cancer Institute (NCI)–designated comprehensive cancer center websites. Two researchers independently evaluated whether the websites provided information regarding integrative medicine modalities and, if so, whether the services were provided in the same health system. They compared the proportion of cancer centers providing the information on each modality in 2016 with the data from the prior study in 2009.

Results. The most common integrative medicine therapies mentioned on the 45 NCI-designated comprehensive cancer center websites were exercise (97.8%) and acupuncture and meditation (88.9% each), followed by yoga (86.7%), massage (84.4%), and music therapy (82.2%). The majority of the websites also provided information on nutrition (95.6%), dietary supplements (93.3%), and herbs (88.9%). The most common therapies offered in the health systems were acupuncture/massage (73.3% each), meditation/yoga (68.9% each), and consultations about nutrition (91.1%), dietary supplements (84.4%), and herbs (66.7%). Compared with 2009, there was a statistically significant increase in the number of websites mentioning acupuncture, dance therapy, healing touch, hypnosis, massage, meditation, Qigong, and yoga (all P < .05).
Conclusions. Leading US cancer centers increasingly present integrative medicine content on their websites, and the majority of them provide these services to patients in the same health systems.

Topic: consultation acupuncture therapy discipline exercise cancer care facilities dietary supplements internet massage therapy meditation music therapy yoga science of nutrition national cancer institute health care systems integrative medicine acupuncture procedure

Subjects: Integrative Medicine organization & administration; Medical Oncology organization & administration


Abstract. To address child trauma caused by events that affect children directly, such as abuse, or indirectly, such as divorce, creative arts therapies are used by creative arts therapists as well as psychologists and counselors. The purpose of this paper is to review such interventions and the research conducted throughout the last 12 years. We considered the methodology used, the population under study and theoretical frameworks, with specific attention given to the reliability, validity and trustworthiness of such research findings. The results showed that the majority of articles reported their findings narratively, with much emphasis placed on the process followed. It was recommended that therapists work closely with researchers to make creative arts therapies less of an outlier in the therapeutic approaches for traumatized children.

Keywords. Creative arts therapies; Trauma; Children; Review; Intervention studies
2. **S1 AND S3: RCT AND DMT**

und Ergänzung durch Handsuche


**Highlights.** • Dance therapy combined with patient education improve quality of life of obese people. • Mainly females adhere to dance therapy. • Dance therapy is appreciated by patient • Dance therapy shows no added value compared to an educational program alone.

**Summary.** Objective. To assess the effect of dance therapy combined with patient education on quality of life, functional capacity (lower limb power and endurance) and physical activity level in obese individuals.

**Methods.** Thirty-three obese patients were randomised to a control group (structured patient education ambulatory program), and 34 to an intervention group (structured patient education ambulatory program combined with weekly sessions of dance therapy). Patients’ quality of life, physical function and physical activity level were assessed at baseline and after 16 weeks.

**Results.** Almost only women were willing to enrol in the study. Participants of the intervention group significantly improved their quality of life (p = 0.023), and particularly self-esteem (p = 0.014). However, dance therapy added to a patient educational program did not produce statistically significant higher effects than a patient education program alone on functional capacities and patients’ physical activity level.

**Conclusion.** A 16 week structured patient educational program combined with dance therapy seems to have a positive effect on the quality of life of obese people, but no effect on functional capacities and physical activity.

**Practice implication.** Dance therapy combined with structured patient education is an interesting approach to improve quality of life of obese people.

**Keywords.** Obesity; Dance therapy; Functional capacities; Quality of life; Physical activity


**Abstract.** This study examines the treatment outcome of a ten weeks dance movement therapy intervention on quality of life (QOL). The multicentred study used a subject-design with pre-test, post-test, and six months follow-up test. 162 participants who suffered from stress were randomly assigned to the dance movement therapy treatment group (TG) (n = 97) and the wait-listed control group (WG) (65). The World Health Organization Quality of Life Questionnaire 100 (WHOQOL-100) and Munich Life Dimension List were used in both groups at all three measurement points. Repeated measures ANOVA revealed that dance movement therapy participants in all QOL dimensions always more than the WG. In the short term, they significantly improved in the Psychological domain (p > .001, WHOQOL; p > .01, Munich Life Dimension List), Social relations/life (p > .10, WHOQOL; p > .10, Munich Life Dimension List), Global value (p > .05, WHOQOL), Physical health (p > .05, Munich Life Dimension List), and General life (p > .10, Munich Life Dimension List). In the long term, dance movement therapy significantly enhanced the psychological domain (p > .05, WHOQOL; p > .05, Munich Life Dimension List).
Dance movement therapy is effective in the short- and long-term to improve QOL.

**Highlights.** ► Efficacy of a 10 week dance movement therapy (DMT) group intervention on quality of life was tested. ► This randomized controlled trial examined changes in the short- and long-term (N = 162) on people suffering from stress. ► DMT significantly improved QOL, especially psychological well-being and general life in the short and long term. ► Social relations, Global value, and Physical health improved significantly in the short term. ► Spirituality and general life improved in the long term as an effect of dance therapy.

**Keywords.** Dance therapy; Dance movement therapy; Research; Quality of life (QOL); Randomized controlled trial; Treatment outcome and efficacy


Abstract. This randomized controlled trial compares the effect of a dance movement therapy (DMT) group intervention on stress management improvement and stress reduction with a wait-listed control group (WG). 162 self-selected clients suffering from stress were randomly assigned to a WG or a DMT intervention that received 10 group therapy sessions. Stress management [Stressverarbeitungsfragebogen/SVF 120], psychopathology and overall distress (Brief Symptom Inventory/BSI) were evaluated at baseline (t1: pre-test), immediately after completion of the ten sessions DMT group intervention (t2: post-test), and 6 months after the DMT treatment (t3: follow-up test). Analysis of variance was calculated to evaluate the between-group (time × condition) and within-group (time) effect of the DMT intervention. Negative stress management strategies decreased significantly in the short-term at t2 (p < .005) and long-term at t3 (p < .05), Positive Strategy Distraction improved significantly in the short-term (p < .10), as well as Relaxation (p < .10). Significant short-term improvements were observed in the BSI psychological distress scales Obsessive-Compulsive (p < .05), Interpersonal Sensitivity (p < .10), Depression (p < .05), Anxiety (p < .005), Phobic Anxiety (p < .01), Psychoticism (p < .05), and in Positive Symptom Distress (p < .02). Significant long-term improvement in psychological distress through DMT existed in Interpersonal Sensitivity (p < .05), Depression (p < .000), Phobic Anxiety (p < .05), Paranoid Thinking (p < .005), Psychoticism (p < .05), and Global Severity Index (p < .01). Results indicate that DMT group treatment is more effective to improve stress management and reduce psychological distress than non-treatment. DMT effects last over time.

**Highlights.** ► Dance movement therapy's effect on stress management improvement and stress reduction was examined. ► This RCT compared short- and long-term effect of 10 sessions’ DMT group intervention (N = 162). ► Negative strategies decreased and distraction improved significantly through DMT. ► Psychological distress and psychopathology decreased significantly at t2 (after treatment) and t3 (6-months’ follow-up) in DMT group. ► DMT effects on stress management improvement and stress reduction last over time and DMT is more effective than non-treatment.

**Keywords.** Dance movement therapy (DMT); research; Stress management; stress reduction; Randomized controlled trial (RCT); Treatment effectiveness; Group therapy


Abstract. The treatment of deficits in social interaction, a shared symptom cluster in persons with schizophrenia (negative symptoms) and autism spectrum disorder (DSM-5 A-criterion), has so far remained widely unsuccessful in common approaches of psychotherapy. The alternative approach of embodiment brings to focus body-oriented intervention methods based on a theoretic framework that explains the disorders on a more basic level than common theory of mind approaches. The randomized controlled trial at hand investigated the effects of a 10-week manualized dance and movement therapy intervention on negative symptoms in participants with autism spectrum disorder. Although the observed effects failed to reach significance at the conventional 0.05 threshold, possibly due to an undersized sample, an encouraging trend towards stronger symptom reduction in the treatment group for overall negative symptoms and for almost all subtypes was found at the 0.10-level. Effect sizes were small but clinically meaningful, and the resulting patterns were in accordance with theoretical expectations. The study at hand contributes to finding an effective treatment approach for autism spectrum disorder in accordance with the notion of embodiment. View Full-Text

Keywords: autism spectrum disorder; embodiment; negative symptoms; dance movement therapy; randomized control trial; intervention methods


Abstract. Background. Dementia is characterized by a progressive decline and deterioration of brain regions such as memory, spatial navigation and language, along with disturbances in daily functioning. Non-pharmacological interventions that offer a holistic approach by targeting cognitive functioning, prognosis and the psychological and social effects of dementia require rigorous investigation. The well-established benefits of physical activity for cognitive functioning and psychological support in dementia have been observed with dance-movement intervention. There is substantial evidence that dance-movement interventions provide emotional and social advantages. Thus, a randomized controlled trial (RCT) is planned to investigate the positive effects of a dance movement intervention, compared with mild physical exercise, on the physical and psychological well-being of elderly Chinese individuals with early dementia.

Methods/Design. A 3-arm RCT with waitlist control design will be used in this study. Two hundred and one elderly participants with very mild to mild dementia will be screened and randomized into the following groups: (i) dance movement based intervention, (ii) stretching and exercise intervention and (iii) no intervention waitlist-control group. The two intervention groups will receive a 1-h intervention, twice a week, for 12 weeks. The participants will be assessed four times over the course of 12 months: baseline before randomization, post-intervention (3 months), 6 months from baseline and 12 months from baseline. The primary outcomes will be compared between assessment points and between groups on neuropsychiatric symptoms, psychosocial well-being and cognitive and daily functioning. Secondary outcomes will assess the changes in salivary cortisol levels and their relationships with the primary outcome measures.

Discussion. This study will provide substantial evidence of the efficacy of a dance-movement-based intervention in slowing down dementia progression, due to its ability to act as a buffer against decline and
improve areas affected by dementia. We also anticipate an association between cortisol levels and the outcome measures. The further development of this intervention into a structural program may be warranted for early psychosocial support among elderly populations.

Ho, R. T., Fong, T. C., Chan, W. C., Kwan, J. S., Chiu, P. K., Yau, J. C., & Lam, L. C. (2018). Psychophysiological Effects of Dance Movement Therapy and Physical Exercise on Older Adults With Mild Dementia: A Randomized Controlled Trial, The Journals of Gerontology: Series B, gby145. Abstract. Objectives. Dementia interferes with older adults’ functioning in cognitive, daily, psychosocial, and neuroendocrine domains. The present study examined the psychophysiological effects of dance movement therapy (DMT) and physical exercise for older adults with dementia. Methods. This randomized controlled trial recruited 204 older adults diagnosed with mild dementia into the DMT, exercise, or waitlist control group. Both DMT and exercise interventions had similar intensity and comprised 24 hr of intervention that spanned over 12 weeks. All participants completed self-report questionnaires on psychosocial well-being, daily functioning, neurocognitive assessments, and salivary cortisol measures at baseline and 3 follow-up measurements more than 1 year. Results. The DMT group showed significant decreases in depression, loneliness, and negative mood (d = 0.33–0.42, p < .05) and improved daily functioning (d = 0.40, p < .01) and diurnal cortisol slope (d = 0.30, p < .01). The effects on daily functioning and cortisol slope remained at 1-year follow-up. The exercise group of matched intensity showed no significant effects on the outcomes. Discussion. The study findings support the potential utility of DMT as a multifaceted intervention for improving various aspects of functioning in older adults with declining cognitive abilities. The lack of beneficial effects for our exercise intervention and long-term DMT effects highlights the need to maintain persistent levels of exercise with adequate intensity and duration. Key words: Biomarkers, Longitudinal change, Memory, Mild cognitive impairment, Psychophysiology Topic: hydrocortisone dementia exercise biological markers dancing depressive disorders neurosecretory systems waiting lists loneliness memory mood elderly movement therapy cognitive ability

Ho, R. T., Fong, T. C., Cheung, I. K., Yip, P. S., & Luk, M. Y. (2016). Effects of a short-term dance movement therapy program on symptoms and stress in patients with breast cancer undergoing radiotherapy: a randomized, controlled, single-blind trial. Journal of pain and symptom management, 51(5), 824-831. Abstract. Context. Integrated interventions with combined elements of body movement and psychotherapy on treatment-related symptoms in cancer patients are relatively scarce. Objectives. The aim of the present study is to investigate the effectiveness of dance movement therapy (DMT) on improving treatment-related symptoms in a randomized controlled trial. Methods. A total of 139 Chinese patients with breast cancer awaiting adjuvant radiotherapy were randomized to DMT or control group. The intervention included six 1.5-hour DMT sessions provided twice a week over the course of radiotherapy. Self-report measures on perceived stress, anxiety, depression, fatigue, pain, sleep disturbance, and quality of life were completed before and after the three-week program. Results. DMT showed significant effects on buffering the deterioration in perceived stress, pain severity, and pain interference (Cohen d = 0.34–0.36, P < 0.05). No significant intervention effects were found on anxiety, depression, fatigue, sleep disturbance, and quality of life (Cohen d = 0.01–0.20, P > 0.05).
Conclusion. The short-term DMT program can counter the anticipated worsening of stress and pain in women with breast cancer during radiotherapy.

Key Words. Breast cancer; dance/movement therapy; pain; perceived stress; randomized controlled trials


Highlights
• Moderated mediation analysis evaluated the effect of DMT on diurnal cortisol slopes.
• Overall, DMT did not show a significant effect on diurnal cortisol slope.
• Baseline perceived stress significantly moderated the intervention effect of DMT on diurnal cortisol slope.
• DMT could help in modulating the neuroendocrine response of the distressed patients.

Abstract. Women with breast cancer are at risk of psychosocial distress and may suffer from aberrant diurnal cortisol rhythms. Dance movement therapy (DMT), a movement-based psychotherapy that incorporates exercise and artistic components, has demonstrated stress reduction effects. This study examined the effects of DMT on the diurnal cortisol rhythms of breast cancer patients undergoing radiotherapy treatment and the role of perceived stress in producing such effects. The study sample comprised 121 Chinese breast cancer patients randomized to the DMT (n = 63) and control (n = 58) groups. The intervention consisted of six 1.5-h group sessions held twice weekly over the course of radiotherapy. Participants completed validated self-report measures of perceived stress, fatigue, pain, and sleep disturbance and provided five salivary cortisol samples at baseline (Time 1) and post-intervention (Time 2). Moderated mediation analysis was used to evaluate the intervention effect on Time 2 diurnal cortisol slopes. Despite the absence of a significant DMT effect on diurnal cortisol slopes (B = −0.55, 95% CI = −1.20 to 0.08, β = −0.14), baseline perceived stress significantly moderated the intervention effect (B = −0.18, 95% CI = −0.32 to −0.05, β = −0.30). At high levels of baseline perceived stress (1 SD above the mean), the DMT group showed a steeper cortisol slope (M = −7.14) than the control group (M = −5.80) at Time 2. The present findings suggest that DMT might have a beneficial effect on diurnal cortisol slopes in breast cancer patients with high levels of distress.

Keywords. Salivary cortisol; Perceived stress; Randomized controlled trial; Moderation; Breast cancer; DMT


Background: Dance movement therapy (DMT) is premised on an interconnected body and mind. It has known benefits for cancer patients’ physical and psychological health and quality of life.

Objective: To offer greater insight into a previous randomized controlled trial, the present study qualitatively explored the beneficial elements of DMT over the course of radiotherapy. To better understand the uniqueness of DMT intervention for patients receiving radiotherapy, the study statistically compared them with patients who received DMT after treatment completion.

Methods: Participants were randomized into radiotherapy and postradiotherapy control groups. The radiotherapy group received DMT (6 sessions at 90 minutes each) as they were undergoing radiotherapy.
The postradiotherapy group was provided with the same DMT intervention at 1 to 2 months after completing radiotherapy.

Results: One hundred and four participants identified 5 main benefit categories. Dance movement therapy helped them (1) cope with cancer, treatment, and physical symptoms; (2) improve mental well-being, attention, and appreciation for the self and body; (3) improve total functioning; (4) bridge back to a normal and better life; and (5) participate in shared positive experiences. The radiotherapy group reported categories 1 and 2 more prominent.


Abstract. This study assessed the profiles of psychological health and changes in neurohormones of adolescents with mild depression after 12 weeks of dance movement therapy (DMT). Forty middle school seniors (mean age: 16 years old) volunteered to participate in this study and were randomly assigned into either a dance movement group (n = 20) or a control group (n = 20). All subscale scores of psychological distress and global scores decreased significantly after the 12 weeks in the DMT group. Plasma serotonin concentration increased and dopamine concentration decreased in the DMT group. These results suggest that DMT may stabilize the sympathetic nervous system. In conclusion, DMT may be effective in beneficially modulating concentrations of serotonin and dopamine, and in improving psychological distress in adolescents with mild depression.

Key Words: adolescent, dance movement therapy, depression, emotion, neurohormone


Abstract. Background. In people with multiple sclerosis (MS) disabilities and limitations may negatively affect self-efficacy. Lowered self-efficacy has been associated with decreases in health-related quality of life, physical activity and cognitive performance. In an explorative observational study we found that a 3-day intensive social cognitive program (Can Do Treatment [CDT]) with the participation of support partners was followed by substantial increases in self-efficacy control and health-related quality of life 6 months after treatment in those people with MS who had relapsing remitting disease and low disability.

Methods/Design. CDT is a sociologically oriented approach, its goal is to uncover and promote existing capabilities, and the notion “stressor” is the central concept. CDT’s components are plenary group sessions, small group sessions, consultations, a theatre evening, and start of the day with a joint activity. The small group sessions form the actual training. Depending on their individual goals the participants join the training groups ‘Body’, ‘Feeling’ or ‘Life’, to work out their aims and to reduce their stressors. The multidisciplinary team includes a psychiatrist, psychiatric nurse, neurologist, specialized MS nurse, physiotherapist, dance therapist, and a person with MS. To evaluate the (cost)effectiveness of CDT in persons with relapsing remitting MS and low disability we perform a single-centre, randomized
controlled trial in 140 patients, with or without support partners. The primary outcome is self-efficacy control. The secondary outcomes are self-efficacy function, health-related quality of life, autonomy and participation, anxiety, depression, cost effectiveness and cost utility. The tertiary outcome is care-related strain to support partners. Outcomes are assessed at baseline and at 1, 3 and 6 months after CDT.

Discussion. This randomized controlled trial will adequately evaluate the clinical and cost effectiveness of a 3-day intensive social cognitive program in people with relapsing remitting MS and low disability, with self-efficacy control as primary outcome.


Abstract. From the 1970s on, case studies reported the effectiveness of therapeutic mirroring in movement with children with autism spectrum disorder. In this feasibility study, we tested a dance movement therapy intervention based on mirroring in movement in a population of 31 young adults with autism spectrum disorder (mainly high-functioning and Asperger’s syndrome) with the aim to increase body awareness, social skills, self–other distinction, empathy, and well-being. We employed a manualized dance movement therapy intervention implemented in hourly sessions once a week for 7 weeks. The treatment group (n = 16) and the no-intervention control group (n = 15) were matched by sex, age, and symptom severity. Participants did not participate in any other therapies for the duration of the study. After the treatment, participants in the intervention group reported improved well-being, improved body awareness, improved self–other distinction, and increased social skills. The dance movement therapy–based mirroring approach seemed to address more primary developmental aspects of autism than the presently prevailing theory-of-mind approach. Results suggest that dance movement therapy can be an effective and feasible therapy approach for autism spectrum disorder, while future randomized control trials with bigger samples are needed.


Abstract. This mixed methods pilot study evaluated the effects of the creative arts therapy (CAT) on the quality of life (QOL) of children receiving chemotherapy. A 2-group, repeated measures randomized design compared CAT with a volunteer’s attention (n = 16). Statistical analysis of the randomized controlled phase of the study suggested an improvement in the following areas after the CAT: parent report of child’s hurt (P = .03) and parent report of child’s nausea (P = .0061). A nonrandomized phase, using a different instrument showed improved mood with statistical significance on the Faces Scale (P < .01), and patients were more excited (P < .05), happier (P < .02), and less nervous (P < .02). Provider focus groups revealed positive experiences. Case studies are included to exemplify the therapeutic process. With heightened interest in complementary therapy for children with cancer, future research with a larger sample size is needed to document the impact of incorporating creative arts into the healing process.

Keywords creative arts therapy, pediatric cancer, brain tumors, quality of life

Objective: Negative symptoms of patients with Schizophrenia are resistant to medical treatment or conventional group therapy. Understanding schizophrenia as a form of disembodiment of the self, a number of scientists have argued that the approach of embodiment and associated embodied therapies, such as Dance and Movement Therapy (DMT) or Body Psychotherapy (BPT), may be more suitable to explain the psychopathology underlying the mental illness and to address its symptoms. Hence the present randomized controlled trial (DRKS00009828, http://apps.who.int/trialsearch/) aimed to examine the effectiveness of manualized movement therapy (BPT/DMT) on the negative symptoms of patients with schizophrenia.

Method: A total of 68 out-patients with a diagnosis of a schizophrenia spectrum disorder were randomly allocated to either the treatment (n = 44, 20 sessions of BPT/DMT) or the control condition [n = 24, treatment as usual (TAU)]. Changes in negative symptom scores on the Scale for the Assessment of Negative Symptoms (SANS) were analyzed using Analysis of Covariance (ANCOVA) with Simpson-Angus Scale (SAS) scores as covariates in order to control for side effects of antipsychotic medication.

Results: After 20 sessions of treatment (BPT/DMT or TAU), patients receiving movement therapy had significantly lower negative symptom scores (SANS total score, blunted affect, attention). Effect sizes were moderate and mean symptom reduction in the treatment group was 20.65%.

Conclusion: The study demonstrates that embodied therapies, such as BPT/DMT, are highly effective in the treatment of patients with schizophrenia. Results strongly suggest that BPT/DMT should be embedded in the daily clinical routine.


Abstract. This study examines the effects of dance movement therapy (DMT) on empathy for adults with autism spectrum disorder (ASD). DMT based on the embodiment approach offers body-centered interventions, such as mirroring techniques, to address the needs of ASD patients. Accordingly, findings of a feasibility study suggest that DMT may be an effective approach for clients on the ASD spectrum. The present study is a randomized controlled trial that was conducted as a multicenter study within the framework of the EU-funded research project TESIS (Toward an Embodied Science of Intersubjectivity), and employed a two-factorial between-subject design. The treatment group (n = 35) participated in a 10-week manualized DMT intervention, whereas the control group (n = 22) received treatment only after a waiting period. Empathy, measured with the Cognitive and Emotional Empathy Questionnaire (CEEQ), was the main variable of interest, analyzed by a repeated measures analysis of variance. In order to also include incomplete data cases, we used the expectation-maximization algorithm for missing data estimation. Results suggest no significant changes in overall empathy between groups. We discuss the results and limitations, as well as future research options. View Full-Text

Keywords: dance movement therapy; DMT; autism spectrum disorder (ASD); randomized controlled trial; embodiment; empathy; mirroring

Abstract. Background: Body-oriented psychological therapy (BOPT) has been described as effective in addressing depressive symptoms. There is, however, a paucity of research into the processes leading to change and the actual experience of the patients and the therapist in delivering BOPT interventions.

Method: Secondary qualitative analysis of data obtained within an exploratory randomised controlled trial of manualised body psychotherapy (BPT) for patients with chronic depression, analysing qualitative aspects of change processes during therapy, was conducted. Results: At the beginning of therapy, most patients presented with a restricted, emotionally dissociated and inwardly directed range of expressive behaviours, associated with isolation of emotions from self-awareness. Clinically relevant changes in body postures and gestures were associated with feelings of empowerment; connecting repressed anger with feelings of sadness appears to have resulted in enhanced levels of self-confidence and improvements of depressed mood. Body satisfaction scores improved slightly. Conclusion: Patients with chronic depression may benefit from specific BPT interventions. These interventions appear to be particularly effective in assisting patients to identify and express a wide range of feelings.

Keywords: body psychotherapy, depression, embodiment


Abstract. Background. Negative symptoms of schizophrenia are frequently associated with poor long term outcomes. Established interventions have little, if any, positive effects on negative symptoms. Arts Therapies such as Body Psychotherapy (BPT) have been suggested to reduce negative symptoms, but the existing evidence is limited. In a small exploratory trial a manualised form of group BPT led to significantly lower negative symptom levels both at the end of treatment and at 4 months follow-up as compared to supportive counseling. We designed a large multi-site trial to assess the effectiveness of a manualised BPT intervention in reducing negative symptoms, compared to an active control.

Methods/Design. In a randomised controlled trial, 256 schizophrenic outpatients with negative symptoms will be randomly allocated either to BPT or Pilates groups. In both conditions, patients will be offered two 90 minutes sessions per week in groups of about 8 patients over a period of 10 weeks. Outcomes are assessed at the end of treatment and at six months follow-up. The primary outcome is severity of negative symptoms, as measured by the Positive and Negative Symptom Scale (PANSS), whilst a range of secondary outcome measures include general psychopathology, social contacts, and quality of life. We will also assess the cost-effectiveness of the intervention.

Discussion. The study aims to evaluate the effectiveness of a promising form of group therapy which may help alleviate negative symptoms that are associated with unfavourable long-term outcomes and have so far been difficult to treat. If the trial is successful, it will add a new and effective option in the treatment of negative symptoms. Group BPT is manualised, might be attractive to many patients because of its unusual approach, and could potentially be rolled out to services at relatively little additional cost.

Key words: Schizophrenia; National Health Service; Negative Symptom; Exploratory Trial; Physical Activity Group

Abstract. BACKGROUND: The negative symptoms of schizophrenia significantly impact on quality of life and social functioning, and current treatment options are limited. In this study the clinical effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of group body psychotherapy as a treatment for negative symptoms were compared with an active control.

DESIGN: A parallel-arm, multisite randomised controlled trial. Randomisation was conducted independently of the research team, using a 1 : 1 computer-generated sequence. Assessors and statisticians were blinded to treatment allocation. Analysis was conducted following the intention-to-treat principle. In the cost-effectiveness analysis, a health and social care perspective was adopted.

PARTICIPANTS:

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA: age 18-65 years; diagnosis of schizophrenia with symptoms present at > 6 months; score of ≥ 18 on Positive and Negative Syndrome Scale (PANSS) negative symptoms subscale; no change in medication type in past 6 weeks; willingness to participate; ability to give informed consent; and community outpatient.

EXCLUSION CRITERIA: inability to participate in the groups and insufficient command of English.

SETTINGS: Participants were recruited from NHS mental health community services in five different Trusts. All groups took place in local community spaces.

INTERVENTIONS: Control intervention: a 10-week, 90-minute, 20-session group beginners' Pilates class, run by a qualified Pilates instructor. Treatment intervention: a 10-week, 90-minute, 20-session manualised group body psychotherapy group, run by a qualified dance movement psychotherapist.

OUTCOMES: The primary outcome was the PANSS negative symptoms subscale score at end of treatment. Secondary outcomes included measures of psychopathology, functional, social, service use and treatment satisfaction outcomes, both at treatment end and at 6-month follow-up.

RESULTS: A total of 275 participants were randomised (140 body psychotherapy group, 135 Pilates group). At the end of treatment, 264 participants were assessed (137 body psychotherapy group, 127 Pilates group). The adjusted difference in means of the PANSS negative subscale at the end of treatment was 0.03 [95% confidence interval (CI) -1.11 to 1.17], showing no advantage of the intervention. In the secondary outcomes, the mean difference in the Clinical Assessment Interview for negative symptoms expression subscale at the end of treatment was 0.62 (95% CI -1.23 to 0.00), and in extrapyramidal movement disorder symptoms -0.65 (95% CI -1.13 to -0.16) at the end of treatment and -0.58 (95% CI -1.07 to -0.09) at 6 months' follow-up, showing a small significant advantage of body psychotherapy. No serious adverse events related to the interventions were reported. The total costs of the intervention were comparable with the control, with no clear evidence of cost-effectiveness for either condition.

LIMITATIONS: Owing to the absence of a treatment-as-usual arm, it is difficult to determine whether or not both arms are an improvement over routine care.

CONCLUSIONS: In comparison with an active control, group body psychotherapy does not have a clinically relevant beneficial effect in the treatment of patients with negative symptoms of schizophrenia.
These findings conflict with the review that led to the current National Institute for Health and Care Excellence guidelines suggesting that arts therapies may be an effective treatment for negative symptoms.

FUTURE WORK: Determining whether or not this lack of effectiveness extends to all types of art therapies would be informative.


Abstract. Background. Negative symptoms of schizophrenia have a severe impact on functional outcomes and treatment options are limited. Arts therapies are currently recommended but more evidence is required.

Aims. To assess body psychotherapy as a treatment for negative symptoms compared with an active control (trial registration: ISRCTN84216587).

Method. Schizophrenia out-patients were randomised into a 20-session body psychotherapy or Pilates group. The primary outcome was negative symptoms at end of treatment. Secondary outcomes included psychopathology, functional, social and treatment satisfaction outcomes at treatment end and 6-months later.

Results. In total, 275 participants were randomised. The adjusted difference in negative symptoms was 0.03 (95% CI –1.11 to 1.17), indicating no benefit from body psychotherapy. Small improvements in expressive deficits and movement disorder symptoms were detected in favour of body psychotherapy. No other outcomes were significantly different.

Conclusions. Body psychotherapy does not have a clinically relevant beneficial effect in the treatment of patients with negative symptoms of schizophrenia.


Persistent negative symptoms are an ongoing challenge in the treatment of chronic schizophrenia. Evidence from randomised controlled trials suggests that arts/non-verbal therapies may be effective in treating negative symptoms of schizophrenia. These treatments have not yet been evaluated in open clinical settings.

The present uncontrolled clinical trial examines the therapeutic processes and clinical outcomes of group body psychotherapy (BPT) on marked negative symptoms in patients with chronic schizophrenia. Changes in symptom scores, subjective quality of life, social functioning and emotional processing between baseline and post-treatment were assessed. The ratings from clinical assessments of independent researchers were compared with the post-therapy summary assessment of the therapists. A total of 39 eligible patients were referred, out of which 18 patients agreed to participate and received BPT in addition to treatment as usual within three therapy groups run by different therapists. Patients had high symptom levels and low psychosocial functioning at baseline. Negative symptoms and general psychopathology significantly reduced during treatment. Positive symptoms and other outcomes did not change. Researcher ratings of psychopathology were in line with the assessment of clinical outcome by therapists and qualitative observations on changes in movement behaviour during therapy.
The results of this study are consistent with findings from a RCT (Röhrich & Priebe, 2006), indicating that BPT is associated with reduced negative symptoms even when administered in routine clinical settings. Therapists’ qualitative judgements may be considered as a valid source for assessing treatment outcomes. Future studies should explore effects of longer term treatments on other outcomes.

Keywords: Body psychotherapy; Dance/movement therapy; Schizophrenia; Negative symptoms; Therapeutic processes


Abstract. Background. Chronic major depressive disorder and dysthymia are associated with a high burden and substantial care costs. New and more effective treatments are required. This is the first randomized controlled trial designed to evaluate the effectiveness of Body Psychotherapy (BPT) in patients with chronic depression.

Methods. Patients with chronic depressive syndromes (more than 2 years symptomatic) and a total score of ≥20 on the Hamilton Rating Scale for Depression (HAMD) were randomly allocated to either immediate BPT or a waiting group which received BPT 12 weeks later. BPT was manualized, delivered in small groups in 20 sessions over a 10 weeks period, and provided in addition to treatment as usual. In an intention to treat analysis, primary outcome were depressive symptom scores at the end of treatment adjusted for baseline symptom levels. Secondary outcomes were self-esteem and subjective quality of life.

Results. Thirty-one patients were included and twenty-one received the intervention. At the end of treatment patients in the immediate BPT group had significantly lower depressive symptom scores than the waiting group (mean difference 8.7, 95% confidence interval 1.0–16.7). Secondary outcomes did not show statistically significant differences. When the scores of the waiting group before and after BPT (as offered after the waiting period) were also considered in the analysis, the differences with the initial waiting group remained significant.

Conclusions. The results suggest that BPT may be an effective treatment option for patients with chronic depression. Difficulty recruiting and subsequent attrition was one of the limitations, but the findings merit further trials with larger samples and process studies to identify the precise therapeutic mechanisms.


A pilot research study was conducted at 2 cancer centers in Connecticut to determine the effect of a dance and movement program on quality of life and shoulder function in breast cancer survivors treated within the prior 5 years. Thirty-five women completed the trial that included a 12-week intervention, using The Lebed Method, Focus on Healing Through Movement and Dance. The study design was a randomized control trial with a wait list control group crossover to active treatment in weeks 13 to 25, with the treatment group receiving the program in weeks 1 to 12, and no program in weeks 13 to 25. Outcome measures were the Breast Cancer Quality of Life (FACT-B), Shoulder range of motion (ROM), and Body Image Scale. FACT-B significantly improved in the intervention group at 13 weeks from 102.0 ± 15.8 to 116.7 ± 16.9, compared to the wait list group 108.1 ± 16.4 to 107.1 ± 21.3 (time × group effect, P = .008). During the crossover phase, the FACT-B score increased in the wait list group and was stable in the treatment group. The overall effect of the training at 26 weeks was significant (time effect, P = .03), and the order of training was also significant (P = .015). Shoulder ROM increased in both groups at 13 weeks.
—15° and 8° in the intervention and wait list groups (Time effect, P = .03; time × group, P = .58). Body Image improved similarly in both groups at 13 weeks (time effect, P = .001; time × group, P = .25), and at 26 weeks. There was no significant effect of the order of training for these outcome measures. A dance movement program that addressed the physical and emotional needs of women following treatment for breast cancer substantially improved a breast cancer–specific quality-of-life measure. Larger studies are justified to determine the acceptability of this therapy as part of the continuum of care for breast cancer survivors.


Abstract. Background and objective. Evidence suggests that dance therapy may have positive effects in areas such as cardiovascular parameters and sleep. The aim of the present study is to explore whether a dance therapy programme improves sleep and blood pressure in a population of middle-aged pre-hypertensive and hypertensive women.

Methods. A randomised controlled trial was conducted, in which participants were assigned to one of 2 groups: standard care (with usual activities and medication) or dance therapy (in which the participants followed a dance therapy programme, in addition to their medication). The intervention was an 8-week, 3-times-per-week, progressive and specific group dance-training programme. The dance steps were specifically designed to improve balance by shifting the body and relocating the centre of gravity. The main measures obtained were blood pressure, sleep quality and quality of life, measured by the Pittsburgh Sleep Quality Index and the European Quality of Life Questionnaire.

Results. Sixty-seven pre-hypertensive and hypertensive middle-aged women were randomised to either an intervention group (n = 35) or a control group (n = 32) after baseline testing. The intervention group reported a significant improvement in blood pressure values (p < 0.01), as well as in sleep quality (p < 0.05) and quality of life (p < 0.001), compared to the control group.

Conclusion. The dance therapy programme improved blood pressure, sleep and quality of life in pre-hypertensive and hypertensive middle-aged women, and constitutes an interesting basis for larger-scale research.

Keywords. Dance therapy; Hypertension; Quality of life; Sleep; Women

Resumen. Fundamento y objetivo. Existe evidencia sobre los efectos positivos de la danza, como la mejora de los parámetros cardiovasculares y del sueño. El objetivo del presente estudio ha sido explorar si un programa de terapia de baile es capaz de mejorar el sueño y la presión arterial en mujeres de mediana edad, prehipertensas e hipertensas.

Métodos. Se diseñó un ensayo aleatorizado y controlado, donde las participantes fueron asignadas a uno de 2 grupos: grupo control (donde las participantes continuaron con sus actividades y medicación habitual) o grupo de terapia de baile (donde las participantes siguieron un programa de terapia de baile, además de su medicación). La intervención consistió en un programa de baile-entrenamiento específico y progresivo durante 8 semanas, a razón de 3 sesiones semanales. Los pasos de baile fueron específicamente seleccionados para mejorar el equilibrio, desplazando el cuerpo y reubicando el centro de gravedad. Las medidas de resultado fueron la presión arterial, la calidad del sueño y la calidad de vida,
estas 2 últimas medidas por el Pittsburgh Sleep Quality Index y el Cuestionario Europeo sobre Calidad de Vida, respectivamente.

Resultados. Se asignó al azar, a un total de 67 mujeres de mediana edad prehipertensas e hipertensas a un grupo de intervención (n = 35), o como controles (n = 32), después de las pruebas basales. El grupo de intervención informó de mejoras significativas en los valores de la presión arterial (p < 0,01), así como en la calidad del sueño (p < 0,05) y la calidad de vida (p < 0,001) en comparación con el grupo control.

Conclusión. El programa de terapia de baile mejoró la presión arterial, el sueño y la calidad de vida en mujeres de mediana edad prehipertensas e hipertensas, proporcionando la base para continuar la investigación con estudios más amplios.

Palabras clave. Danzaterapia; Hipertensión; Calidad de vida; Sueño; Mujer

3. Other Studies on DMT OR Dance OR Tango AND research
(Recherche von 2016)


