

Clinical Trial Protocol

Iranian Registry of Clinical Trials

16 Sep 2026

A randomized controlled trial on the effectiveness of including a component of distant learning into communication skill training program compared to attending the workshop, in improving empathy of the first year residents of psychiatry

Protocol summary

Summary

This study is designed to assess the effectiveness of providing part of the communication skills training program as distant learning compared to the effectiveness of participating in the workshop in improving empathy. We will assess 14 first year residents of psychiatry and randomly allocate them to either participate in a two-day workshop on communications skills (attending group) or to watch the videotape of the first day and participate in the second day (distance learning group). Assessments include Jefferson Scale of Empathy (JSE) and objective assessment of empathy (OAE) during a simulated interview, before and 3 months after the training.

General information

Acronym

IRCT registration information

IRCT registration number: **IRCT2012090510749N1**

Registration date: **2013-10-25, 1392/08/03**

Registration timing: **retrospective**

Last update:

Update count: **0**

Registration date

2013-10-25, 1392/08/03

Registrant information

Name

Mojgan Behzadipour

Name of organization / entity

Tehran Institute of Psychiatry

Country

Iran (Islamic Republic of)

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Recruitment status

Recruitment complete

Funding source

Tehran Institute of Psychiatry, Iran University of Medical Sciences

Expected recruitment start date

2012-04-03, 1391/01/15

Expected recruitment end date

2012-09-20, 1391/06/30

Actual recruitment start date

empty

Actual recruitment end date

empty

Trial completion date

empty

Scientific title

A randomized controlled trial on the effectiveness of including a component of distant learning into communication skill training program compared to attending the workshop, in improving empathy of the first year residents of psychiatry

Public title

Effectiveness of including a component of distant learning into empathy training

Purpose

Other

Inclusion/Exclusion criteria

Inclusion criteria: First year residents of psychiatry; Giving consent for the study Exclusion Criteria: Not giving consent for the study; Not participating in the sessions of the workshop

Age

From **20 years** old to **65 years** old

Gender

Both

Phase

N/A

Groups that have been masked

No information

Sample size

Target sample size: **14**

Randomization (investigator's opinion)

Randomized

Randomization description**Blinding (investigator's opinion)**

Single blinded

Blinding description**Placebo**

Not used

Assignment

Parallel

Other design features**Secondary Ids**

empty

Ethics committees**1****Ethics committee****Name of ethics committee**

Tehran University of Medical Sciences

Street address

6th floor, the Central Campus of the Tehran
University of Medical Sciences, Ghods Street,
Keshavarz Blvd

City

Tehran

Postal code

1417613151

Approval date

2012-08-15, 1391/05/25

Ethics committee reference number

91/130/1086/3

Health conditions studied**1****Description of health condition studied**

Basic communication skills & empathy

ICD-10 code**ICD-10 code description****Primary outcomes****1****Description**

Empathy

Timepoint

Before and 3 month after the training

Method of measurement

Jefferson Scale of Empathy

2**Description**

Empathy

Timepoint

Before and 3 month after the training

Method of measurement

Objective Assessment of Empathy

Secondary outcomes

empty

Intervention groups**1****Description**

Attending group: Training basic communication skills and empathy in a two-day workshop performed by a board certified psychiatrist. The first day of the workshop includes a 2-hour lecture on basic communication skills and one role playing on "clinical setting and basic communication skills in therapeutic relationship". The second day of the workshop includes two different role plays on "getting information from patient" and "giving information to patient". All of the role plays of the two-day workshop are performed twice; first, with some mistakes and negative points in the performance of the "physician", and then in a professionally correct manner. After the "flawed" performance, residents discuss the negative points with the instructor. Furthermore, each session ends with a group discussion on the topics of that session.

Category

Other

2**Description**

Distant learning group: Training basic communication skills and empathy by watching the videotape of the first day and participation in the second day of a two-day workshop performed by a board certified psychiatrist. The first day of the workshop includes a 2-hour lecture on basic communication skills and one role playing on "clinical setting and basic communication skills in therapeutic relationship". The second day of the workshop includes two different role plays on "getting information from patient" and "giving information to patient". All of the role plays of the two-day workshop are performed twice; first, with some mistakes and negative points in the performance of the "physician", and then in a professionally correct manner. After the "flawed" performance, residents discuss the negative points with the instructor. Furthermore, each session ends with a group discussion on the topics of that session.

Category

Other

Recruitment centers1**Recruitment center****Name of recruitment center**

Tehran Institute of Psychiatry

Full name of responsible person

Mojgan Behzadipour

Street address

Tehran Institute of Psychiatry, No 1, Shahid Mansouri Lane, Niyayesh Street, Sattarkhan Street

City

Tehran

Sponsors / Funding sources1**Sponsor****Name of organization / entity**

Vice Chancellor for Research, Iran University of Medical Sciences

Full name of responsible person

Seyed Vahid Shariat (Deputy for Research Affairs, Tehran Institute of Psychiatry-Faculty of Behavior

Street address

Tehran Institute of Psychiatry, Shahid Mansouri Lane, Niayesh Street, Sattarkhan Street

City

Tehran

Grant name**Grant code / Reference number****Is the source of funding the same sponsor organization/entity?**

Yes

Title of funding source

Vice Chancellor for Research, Iran University of Medical Sciences

Proportion provided by this source

100

Public or private sector

empty

Domestic or foreign origin

empty

Category of foreign source of funding

empty

Country of origin**Type of organization providing the funding**

empty

Person responsible for general inquiries**Contact****Name of organization / entity**

Iran University of Medical Sciences

Full name of responsible person

Mojgan Behzadipour

Position

Resident of psychiatry

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Sharing plan

Deidentified Individual Participant Data Set (IPD)
empty
Study Protocol

empty
Statistical Analysis Plan
empty
Informed Consent Form
empty
Clinical Study Report
empty
Analytic Code
empty
Data Dictionary
empty