

Clinical Trial Protocol

Iranian Registry of Clinical Trials

09 Jun 2026

The Effect of Emotional Focused Group Counseling on Emotional spouse Abuse Behavior, and Marital Satisfaction among the Iranian Elderly Couple

Protocol summary

Summary

Goal: The main goal is to examine the effect of emotional focused group counseling on frequency of emotionally abusive behaviors, and marital satisfaction in elderly couples. Design: This interventional study with two groups (case and control) has been designed to examine the effects of emotional focused group counseling on elderly couples with emotional wife. Sampling and sample size: Using a power of 0.95, with a moderate effect size of 0.25, and a repeated measure ANOVA, a minimum of 44 participants is needed. Then 22 couples will be in experimental and 22 couples in control group. For sampling at first The elderly couples who refer to primary health care centers will be assessed for emotional spouse abuse, and those who met the inclusion criteria, and accept to participate in the research will be selected and assigned, randomly in two groups. Pre- and post-intervention assessments and two month after intervention follow up will be carried out to measure the frequency of emotional abusive behaviors, and marital satisfaction in two groups. Eligibility: The inclusion criteria are the aged couples ≥ 60 years who have a positive history of only emotional wife abuse (not the other type or mix type of abuse), Able to communicate verbally, Able to provide informed consent, and the exclusion criteria are contained: History of major psychiatric disorder (such as schizophrenia), or mental impairment, currently abusing drugs or alcohol, and using the antidepressant, anti anxiety, and narcotic drugs, currently enrolled in any other psychological treatment program, and difficulty with ADLs. Intervention: 8 session's 90 min group sessions twice a week, 4-5 elderly couples in each group. Before the starting each groups a 90 min preparation session will be arranged for all the members. Sessions counseling are designed based on the nine steps of FET-C which has been explained by Greenberg and & S. M Johnson (1998)

. The main outcome variables: Emotional abuse will be measured by Multidimensional Measure of Emotional Abuse Questionnaire.(MMEAQ) which was made by Murphy & Hoover, 1999, , and Marital satisfaction will be evaluated by Marital Satisfaction Question for Older People (MSQFOP) by Stephen N. Haynes and et al (1992).

General information

Acronym

IRCT registration information

IRCT registration number: **IRCT2013111715426N1**
Registration date: **2014-01-24, 1392/11/04**
Registration timing: **registered_while_recruiting**

Last update:

Update count: **0**

Registration date

2014-01-24, 1392/11/04

Registrant information

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Name of organization / entity

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Recruitment status

Recruitment complete

Funding source

Shiraz University of Medical Sciences

Expected recruitment start date

2013-10-26, 1392/08/04

Expected recruitment end date

2014-09-26, 1393/07/04

Actual recruitment start date

empty

Actual recruitment end date

empty

Trial completion date

empty

Scientific title

The Effect of Emotional Focused Group Counseling on Emotional spouse Abuse Behavior, and Marital Satisfaction among the Iranian Elderly Couple

Public title

Emotional focus group counseling for elderly couples

Purpose

Treatment

Inclusion/Exclusion criteria

The inclusion criteria are the aged ≥ 60 years, Able to communicate verbally, Able to provide informed consent, and the exclusion criteria are contained: History of major psychiatric disorder (such as schizophrenia), or mental impairment, currently abusing drugs or alcohol, and using the antidepressant, anti anxiety, and narcotic drugs, currently enrolled in any other psychological treatment program, and difficulty with ADLs

AgeFrom **60 years** old to **85 years** old**Gender**

Both

Phase

N/A

Groups that have been masked*No information***Sample size**Target sample size: **95****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**

Shiraz University of Medical Sciences

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Postal code

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Approval date

2013-10-08, 1392/07/16

Ethics committee reference number

ct-92-6705

2**Ethics committee****Name of ethics committee**

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71944

Approval date

2013-09-23, 1392/07/01

Ethics committee reference number

92/244095

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

Spouse emotional abuse behavior

ICD-10 code

R40-46

ICD-10 code description

Symptoms and signs involving cognition, perception, emotional state and behaviour

Primary outcomes**1****Description**

Psychological spouse abuse

Timepoint

Before intervention, immedietly after the last seesion of intervention and two month later

Method of measurement

Multidimensional Measure of Emotional Abuse Questionnaire.(MMEAQ)

Secondary outcomes**1****Description**

Marital Satisfaction

Timepoint

Before intervention , immedietlt after, and 2 month later

Method of measurement

Marital Satisfaction Question for Older People (MSQFOP)

Intervention groups

1

Description

The 10 sessions counselling are designed based on the nine steps of EFT-C which has been explained by Greenberg and & S. M Johnson (1998) ,and will be conducted as follows: Before the starting the 9 main session of counseling we develop a session for members' preparation to share understanding of the problem, goals, to achieve the nature of emotional abuse, and the rules of participating in groups. Then 9 sessions will be started two sessions per week, each sessions will be conducted by one step Step 1: Identify the relational conflict. Step 2: Identify the negative interaction cycle where conflict is expressed. Step 3: Access unacknowledged emotions, attachment-oriented emotions. Step 4: Reframe the problem in terms of the cycle, underlying emotions that attend it, and attachment needs Step 5: Promote identification with disowned attachment needs and aspects of self Step 6: Promote partner's acceptance of the other experience. Step 7: Facilitate expression of needs and wants to restructure the interaction based on new bounding events. Step 8: Facilitate the emergence of new solutions to old problems Step 9: Consolidation new positions and cycles of attachment behavior .

Category

Behavior

2

Description

The Control group will not receive any intervention. They will continue their living as routine.

Category

Other

Recruitment centers

1

Recruitment center

Name of recruitment center

Shiraz University of Medical Sciences

Full name of responsible person

Maryam Hazrati

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Sponsors / Funding sources

1

Sponsor

Name of organization / entity

Research center of Shiraz University of Medical Science

Full name of responsible person

Dr. Hatam

Street address

the central bulding of Shiraz University of Medical Science. Zand street.Shiraz

City

Shiraz

Grant name

Grant code / Reference number

Is the source of funding the same sponsor organization/entity?

Yes

Title of funding source

Research center of Shiraz University of Medical Science

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

Shiraz University of Medical Science

Full name of responsible person

Maryam Hazrati

Position

Candidate of PhD Institute of Gerontology UPM Universities of Putra Malaysia

Other areas of specialty/work

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Fax**Email****Web page address****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

Person responsible for updating data**Contact****Name of organization / entity**

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Full name of responsible person

Dr. Farkhondeh Sharif

Position