Clinical Trial Protocol
Iranian Registry of Clinical Trials

08 Nov 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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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
Age
From **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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Fatemeh (P.B.U.H) School of Nursing& Midwifery Shiraz-Iran P.O. Box: 71345–1359
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Approval date
2013-10-08, 1392/07/16
Ethics committee reference number
ct-92-6705

2

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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 counducted 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
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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

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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