

# Clinical Trial Protocol

## Iranian Registry of Clinical Trials

27 Jun 2026

### Effectiveness of Attentional Control Training on Attentional Bias Towards Death-Related Stimuli, the Level of Death anxiety, and the Level of Sensitivity to Mortality Salience

#### Protocol summary

Attention bias towards death-related stimuli; Level of death anxiety; Level of sensitivity to mortality salience

#### Study aim

Determining the effectiveness of attentional control training on the level of death anxiety, attentional bias towards death-related stimuli, and the level of sensitivity to mortality salience

#### Design

Clinical trial with control group and parallel groups, simply randomized

#### Settings and conduct

First we assign the participants who have all been selected from Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences's students randomly to 3 groups (2 intervention groups and 1 control group). At pre-intervention stage, participants' death anxiety will be assessed using 1) death anxiety questionnaire 2) modified stroop test and 3) mortality salience. Then the participants in intervention groups will receive attentional control training. At post-intervention and 3-months follow-up, death anxiety will be assessed again, using the methods described above. The results at 3 stages will be compared to reveal the effects of intervention and their sustainability.

#### Participants/Inclusion and exclusion criteria

Inclusion Criteria: Having sufficient ability to use a computer Exclusion Criteria: Having difficult to cure or incurable physical illnesses; Having a traumatic experience in the past year; Encountering the death of an acquaintance in the past year; Having close people (or the responsibility to care for people) dealing with imminent death

#### Intervention groups

Intervention group 1: Receives attentional control training for death-related stimuli Intervention group 2: Receives attentional control training for negative stimuli unrelated to death Control group: Receives no intervention

#### Main outcome variables

#### General information

##### Reason for update

##### Acronym

##### IRCT registration information

IRCT registration number: **IRCT20190406043181N1**

Registration date: **2020-01-03, 1398/10/13**

Registration timing: **retrospective**

Last update: **2020-01-03, 1398/10/13**

Update count: **0**

##### Registration date

2020-01-03, 1398/10/13

##### Registrant information

##### Name

Saeed Nasiry

##### Name of organization / entity

##### Country

Iran (Islamic Republic of)

##### Phone

+98 86 3328 8724

##### Email address

snasiry@sbmu.ac.ir

##### Recruitment status

**Recruitment complete**

##### Funding source

##### Expected recruitment start date

2019-09-23, 1398/07/01

##### Expected recruitment end date

2019-10-06, 1398/07/14

##### Actual recruitment start date

empty

##### Actual recruitment end date

empty

**Trial completion date**  
empty

**Scientific title**  
Effectiveness of Attentional Control Training on Attentional Bias Towards Death-Related Stimuli, the Level of Death anxiety, and the Level of Sensitivity to Mortality Salience

**Public title**  
Effect of Attentional Control Training on Death Anxiety

**Purpose**  
Treatment

**Inclusion/Exclusion criteria**  
**Inclusion criteria:**  
Having sufficient ability to use a computer  
**Exclusion criteria:**  
Having difficult to cure or incurable physical illnesses  
Having a traumatic experience in the past year  
Encountering the death of an acquaintance in the past year  
Having close people (or the responsibility to care for people) dealing with imminent death

**Age**  
From **18 years** old to **30 years** old

**Gender**  
Both

**Phase**  
N/A

**Groups that have been masked**  
*No information*

**Sample size**  
Target sample size: **45**

**Randomization (investigator's opinion)**  
Randomized

**Randomization description**  
Simple randomization in individual unit, using table of random numbers

**Blinding (investigator's opinion)**  
Not blinded

**Blinding description**

**Placebo**  
Not used

**Assignment**  
Parallel

**Other design features**

## Secondary Ids

empty

## Ethics committees

### 1

#### Ethics committee

##### Name of ethics committee

Iran National Committee for Ethics in Biomedical Research

##### Street address

Floor 13, Block A, Ministry of Health & Medical Education Headquarters, Between Zarafashan &

South Falamak, Qods Town

**City**  
Tehran

**Province**  
Tehran

**Postal code**  
5486213654

**Approval date**  
2019-08-27, 1398/06/05

**Ethics committee reference number**  
IR.SBMU.MSP.REC.1398.539

## Health conditions studied

### 1

#### Description of health condition studied

Death Anxiety

#### ICD-10 code

#### ICD-10 code description

## Primary outcomes

### 1

#### Description

Attentional bias towards death-related stimuli

#### Timepoint

Pre-intervention, post-intervention, 3-months follow-up

#### Method of measurement

Modified stroop test

### 2

#### Description

Level of death anxiety

#### Timepoint

Pre-intervention, post-intervention, 3-months follow-up

#### Method of measurement

Multidimensional fear of death scale

### 3

#### Description

Level of sensitivity to mortality salience

#### Timepoint

Pre-intervention, post-intervention, 3-months follow-up

#### Method of measurement

Moral disengagement scale after causing mortality salience through writing two sentences about one's death

## Secondary outcomes

empty

## Intervention groups

### 1

#### Description

Intervention group: Receive the computerized attentional

control training program for death-related stimuli in 4 sessions across 2 weeks. In each session of this program, the participants face a mixture of death-related images or words and neutral images or words, and practice to change their attention from death-related stimuli to neutral ones, and also from the content of each stimulus to the color of its background or border.

**Category**

Treatment - Other

**2****Description**

Intervention group: Receive the computerized attentional control training program for negative stimuli unrelated to death, in 4 session across 2 weeks. In each session of this program, the participants face a mixture of negative images or words unrelated to death, and neutral images or words, and practice to change their attention from negative stimuli to neutral ones, and also from the content of each stimulus to the color of its background or border.

**Category**

Treatment - Other

**3****Description**

Control group: Receive no intervention

**Category**

N/A

**Recruitment centers****1****Recruitment center****Name of recruitment center**

Shahid Beheshti Medical University

**Full name of responsible person**

Saeed Nasiry

**Street address**

Tehran, Evin, Arabi St.

**City**

Tehran

**Province**

Tehran

**Postal code**

8456623514

**Phone**

+98 21 4862 1543

**Email**

snresearch@sbmu.ac.ir

**Sponsors / Funding sources****1****Sponsor****Name of organization / entity**

Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences

**Full name of responsible person**

Saeed Nasiry

**Street address**

Tehran, Evin, Arabi St.

**City**

Tehran

**Province**

Tehran

**Postal code**

8456623514

**Phone**

+98 21 4862 1543

**Email**

snresearch@sbmu.ac.ir

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

Yes

**Title of funding source**

Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences

**Proportion provided by this source**

100

**Public or private sector**

Public

**Domestic or foreign origin**

Domestic

**Category of foreign source of funding**

empty

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

Academic

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

Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences

**Full name of responsible person**

Saeed Nasiry

**Position**

Student

**Latest degree**

Master

**Other areas of specialty/work**

Psychology

**Street address**

No. 2, Moghaddam De., South Ramin Ave., East Ferdows Blvd.

**City**

Tehran

**Province**

Tehran

**Postal code**

8456623514

**Phone**

+98 86 3328 8724

**Fax****Email**

snasiry@sbmu.ac.ir

## Person responsible for scientific inquiries

### Contact

**Name of organization / entity**

Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences

**Full name of responsible person**

Saeed Nasiry

**Position**

Student

**Latest degree**

Master

**Other areas of specialty/work**

Psychology

**Street address**

No. 2, Moghaddam De., South Ramin Ave., East Ferdows Blvd.

**City**

Tehran

**Province**

Tehran

**Postal code**

8456623514

**Phone**

+98 86 3328 8724

**Fax****Email**

snasiry@sbm.ac.ir

## Person responsible for updating data

### Contact

**Name of organization / entity**

Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences

**Full name of responsible person**

Saeed Nasiry

**Position**

Student

**Latest degree**

Master

**Other areas of specialty/work**

Psychology

**Street address**

No. 2, Moghaddam De., South Ramin Ave., East Ferdows Blvd.

**City**

Tehran

**Province**

Tehran

**Postal code**

8456623514

**Phone**

+98 86 3328 8724

**Fax****Email**

snasiry@sbm.ac.ir

## Sharing plan

**Deidentified Individual Participant Data Set (IPD)**

No - There is not a plan to make this available

**Justification/reason for indecision/not sharing IPD**

No further information

**Study Protocol**

No - There is not a plan to make this available

**Statistical Analysis Plan**

Not applicable

**Informed Consent Form**

No - There is not a plan to make this available

**Clinical Study Report**

No - There is not a plan to make this available

**Analytic Code**

Not applicable

**Data Dictionary**

Not applicable