Clinical Trial Protocol
Iranian Registry of Clinical Trials

18 Jun 2026

The effects of affective expectations on affective experience and anhedonia among anhedonic patients suffering from major depression disorder

Protocol summary

Study aim
The effects of affective expectations on affective experience and anhedonia among anhedonic patients suffering from major depression disorder

Design
Clinical trial with control group, with parallel groups, single-blind, randomized. For randomization, people are placed in the control or intervention group through lottery.

Settings and conduct
The research will be conducted in Hafez and Ebne Sina hospitals in Shiraz. The participants will be randomly divided into two groups of inducing positive and neutral expectations. participants in the positive expectancy induction group are given very positive explanations about the movie that will be played for them. While the subjects of the neutral emotion induction group will be given explanations about the movie that only explain the events that happened in the movie without using any special emotional charge. The participants are aware of the study as a whole, but they are unaware of which group they belong to.

Participants/Inclusion and exclusion criteria
Inclusion criteria: initial diagnosis of major depressive disorder with anhedonia, Age range from 18 to 65 years. Exclusion criteria: The presence of comorbid disorders, including substance abuse, psychotic disorders, bipolar disorder, anxiety disorders, and psychotic symptoms, active suicidal ideation, History of head injury or neurological diseases.

Intervention groups
Intervention group: induction of positive expectations. participants in the positive expectancy induction group are given very positive explanations about the movie that will be played for them. Control group: induction of neutral expectations. Explanations about the film will be provided, which only explain the events and happenings in the film without using any special emotional load.

Main outcome variables
Affective Experience Anhedonia

General information

Reason for update

Acronym

IRCT registration information
IRCT registration number: **IRCT20230513058161N1**
Registration date: **2023-07-19, 1402/04/28**
Registration timing: **registered_while_recruiting**

Last update: **2023-07-19, 1402/04/28**
Update count: **0**

Registration date
2023-07-19, 1402/04/28

Registrant information

Name
Somayeh Daneshvar

Name of organization / entity

Country
Iran (Islamic Republic of)

Phone
+98 71 3612 8351

Email address
somayedaneshvar@sums.ac.ir

Recruitment status
Recruitment complete

Funding source

Expected recruitment start date
2023-02-09, 1401/11/20

Expected recruitment end date
2023-08-21, 1402/05/30

Actual recruitment start date
empty

Actual recruitment end date
empty
Trial completion date
empty

Scientific title
The effects of affective expectations on affective experience and anhedonia among anhedonic patients suffering from major depression disorder

Public title
The effects of affective expectations on anhedonia among patients suffering from major depression disorder
Purpose
Treatment
Inclusion/Exclusion criteria
Inclusion criteria:
Initial diagnosis of major depressive disorder with anhedonia Age range from 18 to 65 years
Exclusion criteria:
The presence of comorbid disorders, including substance abuse, psychotic disorders, bipolar disorder, anxiety disorders, and psychotic symptoms. Active suicidal ideation History of head injury or neurological diseases
Age
From **18 years** old to **65 years** old
Gender
Both

Phase
N/A
Groups that have been masked

- Participant

Sample size
Target sample size: **40**
Randomization (investigator's opinion)
Randomized
Randomization description
Random allocation of patients to intervention and control groups by lottery. For this purpose, we prepare two sheets and write "intervention" on one and "control" on the other. Then, upon each patient's visit, he/she is asked to pick one of the sheets randomly, and based on this, the patient is assigned to the intervention or control group. It is continued in the same way for other patients.
Blinding (investigator's opinion)
Single blinded
Blinding description
The general design of the experiment is explained to the participants, but the subject does not know which group will be placed in. In this way, the general objectives of the research are explained to the subjects before the implementation of the research: In this research, we intend to investigate the symptom of anhedonia in major depressive disorder using psychological interventions. However, subjects are not told which of the experimental or control groups they have been placed in.
Placebo
Used
Assignment
Parallel
Other design features

Secondary Ids

empty

Ethics committees

1

Ethics committee
Name of ethics committee
Ethics Committee of Shiraz University of Medical Sciences
Street address
5th floor, Shiraz University Central Building, Islamic Republic Blvd,
City
Shiraz
Province
Fars
Postal code
7194684471
Approval date
2022-12-04, 1401/09/13
Ethics committee reference number
IR.SUMS.REC.1401.573

Health conditions studied

1

Description of health condition studied
Major Depression Disorder
ICD-10 code
F32.2
ICD-10 code description
Severe depressive episode without psychotic symptoms

Primary outcomes

1

Description
Anhedonia
Timepoint
Before and after the intervention
Method of measurement
Positive Valence Systems Scale-21 questionnaire

2

Description
Affective Experience
Timepoint
Before and after the intervention
Method of measurement
Affective Experience questionnaire

Secondary outcomes

1

Description

Probabilistic reward Learning

Timepoint

Before and after the intervention

Method of measurement

Probabilistic reward task

Intervention groups

1

Description

Intervention group: induction of positive expectations. Individuals in this group will be given a very positive description of the movie they are about to see, on the basis that the movie will be very enjoyable, such as: "This movie you are about to see is one of the best movies I've ever seen." It is a popular comedy that is very enjoyable. The aim of this statement is to induce excitement and positive emotion towards watching the clip in order to increase the interest of the person in watching the clip.

Category

Treatment - Other

2

Description

Control group: The people of this group will be given an explanation about the movie, which only explains the events and happenings in the movie without using any special emotional load.

Category

Placebo

Recruitment centers

1

Recruitment center

Name of recruitment center

Hafez Hospital

Full name of responsible person

Babak Hosseini

Street address

Hafez Hospital, Chamran Blvd

City

Shiraz

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7194634786

Phone

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2

Recruitment center

Name of recruitment center

Ebne Sina Hospital

Full name of responsible person

Ebrahim Moghimi Sarani

Street address

Hafez Ave, 8th Ave

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7146676541

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Sponsors / Funding sources

1

Sponsor

Name of organization / entity

Shiraz University of Medical Sciences

Full name of responsible person

Mohammad Hashem Hashempur

Street address

7th floor, central building of Shiraz University of Medical Sciences, Zand Ave

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vcrdep@sums.ac.ir

Grant name

Grant code / Reference number

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

Yes

Title of funding source

Shiraz 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

Shiraz University of Medical Sciences

Full name of responsible person

Somayeh Daneshvar

Position
Assistant Professor
Latest degree
Ph.D.
Other areas of specialty/work
Psychology
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Person responsible for scientific inquiries

Contact
Name of organization / entity
Shiraz University of Medical Sciences
Full name of responsible person
Somayeh Daneshvar
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Person responsible for updating data

Contact
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Full name of responsible person
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Sharing plan

Deidentified Individual Participant Data Set (IPD)
Yes - There is a plan to make this available
Study Protocol
Yes - There is a plan to make this available
Statistical Analysis Plan
Yes - There is a plan to make this available
Informed Consent Form
Yes - There is a plan to make this available
Clinical Study Report
Yes - There is a plan to make this available
Analytic Code
Yes - There is a plan to make this available
Data Dictionary
Yes - There is a plan to make this available
Title and more details about the data/document
All potential data can be shared in SPSS file format after de-identifying people.
When the data will become available and for how long
Access start 6 months after the results publication
To whom data/document is available
The data will be available to researchers working in academic and scientific institutions
Under which criteria data/document could be used
The necessary conditions for sending a request to access data or documents are email to the corresponding author. Only statistical analyzes similar to those performed in the present study are allowed, including independent t-student tests and multivariate analysis of variance tests.
From where data/document is obtainable
Email to the corresponding author
What processes are involved for a request to access data/document
Applicants can send their request via e-mail to the responsible author, then within a maximum period of one month, the corresponding author will send them the required documents or files.
Comments