

novel and realistic quality assessment systems may be needed for studies focusing on patients with advanced cancer.

POTENTIAL CONFLICT OF INTEREST

None known.

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T A B L E S

Characteristics of included studies

Study	Classen 2001
Methods	RCT
Participants	125 women with metastatic breast cancer; American
Interventions	Supportive-expressive group psychotherapy, including fostering support among group members and encouraging the expression of emotions, psychoeducation, and self-hypnosis exercise (90 minutes weekly session lasting at least one year)
Outcomes	Profile of Mood States, Impact of Event scale
Notes	Quality score: 10 It is reported that the group therapy did not improve depression
Allocation concealment	B - Unclear
Study	Edelman 1999
Methods	RCT
Participants	124 women with metastatic breast cancer; Australian
Interventions	Group cognitive behavior therapy (8 weekly sessions)

Characteristics of included studies (Continued)

Outcomes	Profile of Mood States, Coopersmith Self-esteem Inventory
Notes	Quality score: 7 It is reported that the therapy improved depression
Allocation concealment	B – Unclear
Study	Goodwin 2001
Methods	RCT
Participants	235 women with metastatic breast cancer; Canadian
Interventions	Supportive-expressive group psychotherapy, including fostering support among group members and encouraging the expression of emotions about cancer and its effects on their lives (90 minutes weekly session lasting at least one year)
Outcomes	Profile of Mood States, Pain scale, Suffering scale, Survival
Notes	Quality score: 17 It is reported that the group therapy improved depression
Allocation concealment	A – Adequate
Study	Laidlaw 2005
Methods	RCT
Participants	37 women with metastatic breast cancer; English
Interventions	1. Self-hypnosis, including both anti-stress and anxiety techniques and visualization techniques (four weeks) 2. Johrei, a healing technique developed in Japan, is non-touch, and requires the practitioner to visualize healing light entering the body and being transferred via the outstretched hand to the recipient with a spirit of goodwill towards the other person (four weeks)
Outcomes	Beck Depression Inventory, Profile of Mood States Bi-Polar-Form, State Trait Anxiety Inventory, Impact of Event Scale, EORTC QLQ-C30, BR23 (Assessment was conducted after at least three months of practice)
Notes	Quality score: 5 The statistical results regarding depression were not reported
Allocation concealment	B – Unclear
Study	Linn 1982
Methods	RCT
Participants	One hundred and twenty men with end-stage cancer (clinical stage IV) identified on wards of a large general hospital; American
Interventions	Counseling, including reducing denial, maintaining hope, life review, support for families (several times a week till death)
Outcomes	Profile of Mood States, life satisfaction, self-esteem, alienation, locus of control (one, three, six, nine, 12 months after the treatment)
Notes	Quality score: 13 It is reported that the therapy improved depression at three months
Allocation concealment	A – Adequate
Study	Liassi 2001
Methods	RCT
Participants	Fifty terminally ill cancer patients who were referred for palliative care; Greek

Characteristics of included studies (Continued)

Interventions	Hypnosis, including induction, suggestions for symptom management and ego-strengthening, and post hypnotic suggestions for comfort and maintenance of the therapeutic benefits (30-minutes four weekly sessions)
Outcomes	Hospital Anxiety and Depression scale, Rotterdam Symptom Checklist (four weeks after the start of the treatment)
Notes	Quality score: 9 It is reported that the therapy improved depression
Allocation concealment	B – Unclear

Study	Sloman 2002
Methods	RCT
Participants	Fifty six advanced cancer patients receiving home palliative care who were experiencing anxiety and depression; Australian
Interventions	Progressive muscle relaxation and guided imagery (twice weekly)
Outcomes	Hospital Anxiety and Depression scale, Functional Living Index-Cancer scale (three weeks after the initial session)
Notes	Quality score: 4 It is reported that significant positive changes occurred for depression
Allocation concealment	B – Unclear

Study	Spiegel 1981
Methods	RCT
Participants	Eighty six women with metastatic breast cancer; American
Interventions	Psychological support group, including fostering support among group members and encouraging the expression of emotions (90 minutes weekly session lasting at least one year)
Outcomes	Profile of Mood States, Rotter Internal/External Locus of Control Scale, Health Locus of Control Scale, Self-esteem (from the Janis-Field Scale), Maladaptive coping response, Phobias, Denial
Notes	Quality score: 9 The original study revealed "The treatment group tended (although not significantly) to be less depressed" on the basis of the findings about slopes analysis that investigated the score change per 100 days. On the other hand, because we set the outcome at the end of the study in the protocol, we recalculated the score change during 300 days. Consequently the score change has become to be statistically significant.
Allocation concealment	B – Unclear

Study	Wood 1997
Methods	RCT
Participants	Twenty cancer patients who were referred to hospice home care teams; English
Interventions	Problem-solving therapy (three to five sessions)
Outcomes	Profile of Mood States, Hospital Anxiety and Depression scale, modified Social Adjustment Scale
Notes	Quality score: 9 The statistical results regarding depression were not reported
Allocation concealment	B – Unclear

Study	Wu 2003
Methods	RCT
Participants	One hundred and twenty lung cancer patients receiving chemotherapy combined with radiotherapy; Chinese
Interventions	Supporting psychotherapy, including cognitive therapy, patient self-help group, behavioral therapy, and family education
Outcomes	Self-Rating Depression Scale, Self-Rating Anxiety Scale (one month after the start of the treatment)
Notes	Quality score: 12 It is reported that the patients of the treatment group made a significant progress in relieving the depression compared with the control group
Allocation concealment	B – Unclear

Characteristics of excluded studies

Study	Reason for exclusion
Edmonds 1999	Although the POMS-Short Form was used as a psychological measure, this questionnaire cannot assess depression
Giasson 1998	The intervention (noncontact therapeutic touch) was not considered as psychotherapy
Mantovani 1996	The study did not include the usual care in the control group
North 1992	The intervention (information giving by tape-recording the consultation) was not considered as psychotherapy
Sarna 1998	The intervention (structured nursing assessment of symptom) was not considered as psychotherapy
Schofield 2003	The intervention (use of multisensory environment [Snoezelen]) was not considered as psychotherapy
Soden 2004	The intervention (aromatherapy, including massages with lavender essential oil and an inert oil) was not considered as psychotherapy

ADDITIONAL TABLES

Table 01. Additional search strategies

Database searched	Search strategy used
PaPs TRIALS REGISTER	((psychotherapy OR psychotherapY) OR "art therapy" OR "autogenic training" OR "behavior" OR "behaviour" OR "cognitive behavioural therapy" OR "cognitive behaviour therapy" OR "cognitive behavioural therapY" OR "cognitive behavioural therapY" OR "cognitive behavioural therapY" AND psychol*) OR "implusive therapy" OR "relaxation therapY" OR "relaxation technique" OR "therapeutic touch" OR "touch therapY" OR "yoga OR bibliotherapy OR "colour therapY" OR "colour therapy" OR "music therapy" OR "hypnotherapy OR (imagerY AND psychotherapy") OR "group therapy" OR "socio-environmental therapy" OR "milieu therapy" OR "therapeutic community" OR "family therapY" OR "self help group" OR "support group" OR "guided imagery" AND (depression OR depressive\$ OR depressed) AND (neoplasms OR tumor\$ OR tumour\$ OR cancer\$ OR carcinoma\$ OR malignan\$ OR neoplasm\$))
CENTRAL	#1 PSYCHOTHERAPY (explode all trees MeSH) #2 (psychotherapY or aromatherapY or (art next therapY) or (autogenic next training) or (behavior next therapY) or (behaviour next therapY) or (haptic next therapY) or (desensit* AND psychol*) or (implusive next therapY) or (implusive near therapY) or (impulsive next therapY) or (impulsive near therapY) or (relax* next therapY) or (relax* near therapY) or (relax next therapY) or (relax near therapY) or (relax next techniq*) or (therapY next touch*) or (yoga) #3 (bibliotherapy or (color* next therapY) or (colour* next therapY) or (music* next therapY) or (hypno* next therapY) or (imageg AND psychotherapY) or (counsel* AND psychol*) or (group* NEAR therapY) or (socioenvironmental next therapY) or (socio next environmental next therapY) or (milieu next therapY) or (therapeutic commun* OR (famil* next therapY) or (famil* near therapY) or psychosoc* OR psycholog* OR self help group* OR support* NEAR group* OR guide* NEAR image*) #4 (#1 or #2 or #3) #5 DEPRESSION (single term MeSH) #6 (depression or depressive* or depressed) #7 (#5 or #6) #8 NEOPLASMS (explode all trees MeSH) #9 (tumor* OR tumour* OR cancer* OR carcinoma* OR malignan* OR neoplasm*) #10 (#8 or #9) #11 (#4 and #7 and #10)
EMBASE via Embase.Com	((psychotherapy/exp AND [embase]/lim) OR ((psychotherapY OR aromatherapY OR 'art therapy' OR 'autogenic training' OR 'behavior' OR 'behaviour' OR 'cognitive behavioural therapy' OR 'cognitive behaviour therapy' OR 'cognitive behavioural therapies' OR (desensit* AND psychol*) OR 'implusive therapy' OR 'relaxation therapy' OR 'relaxation therapies' OR 'relaxation technique' OR 'relaxation techniques' OR 'therapeutic touch' OR 'touch therapy' OR 'yoga') AND [embase]/lim AND [embase]/lim) OR ((bibliotherapy OR 'colour therapy' OR 'color therapy' OR 'colour therapies' OR 'color colour therapies' OR 'music therapy' OR 'hypnotherapy' AND imagery AND psychotherapy OR 'group therapy' OR 'group therapies' OR 'group group therapies' OR 'socioenvironmental therapy' OR 'socio environmental therapy' OR 'milieu therapy' OR 'therapeutic community' OR 'family therapy' OR 'family family therapies' OR 'psychosoc*' OR 'psycholog*' OR 'self help group' OR 'self help groups' OR 'support group' OR 'support groups' OR 'supportive group' OR 'supportive groups' OR 'guided imagery') AND [embase]/lim) AND ((depression OR depressive* OR depressed AND [embase]/lim) OR ((depression/exp AND [embase]/lim)) AND ((neoplasmin'/exp AND [embase]/lim) OR ((tumor* OR tumour* OR cancer* OR carcinoma* OR malignan* OR neoplasm*)

Table 01. Additional search strategies (Continued)

Database searched	Search strategy used
CINAHL via OVID	<p>AND [embase]/lim))</p> <p>The above subject search was linked to the following Filter for EMBASE via EMBASE.com</p> <p>(random*:ti,ab) OR (factorial*:ab,ti) OR (crossover*:ab,ti OR 'cross over':ab,ti) OR (placebo*:ab,ti) OR ('double blind' OR 'double blind') OR ('single blind':ab,ti OR 'single blind',ab,ti) OR (assign*:ti,ab OR 'allocat':ti,ab) OR ('randomized controlled trial':exp AND [embase]/lim) OR ('single blind procedure':exp AND [embase]/lim) OR ('double blind procedure':exp AND [embase]/lim) NOT (animal/ OR nonhuman/ OR 'animal'/de AND experiment/ AND [embase]/lim) AND (human/ AND [embase]/lim) AND (animal/ OR nonhuman/ OR 'animal'/de AND experiment/ AND [embase]/lim) AND [embase]/lim) AND [embase]/lim</p> <p>(Search Strategy as for MEDLINE but run with the following filter for Controlled Trials in CINAHL)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Random Assignment/ 2. single-blind studies/ 3. Double-Blind Studies/ 4. Triple-Blind Studies/ 5. Crossover Design/ 6. Factorial Design/ 7. (multicentre study or multicenter study or multi-centre study or multi-center study).mp. [mp=title, cinahl subject headings, abstract, instrumentation] 8. random\$:t,ab. 9. latin square.ti,ab. 10. cross-over.mp. or crossover.ti,ab. [mp=title, cinahl subject headings, abstract, instrumentation] 11. Placebos/ 12. ((sing\$ or doubl\$ or tripl\$ or tripl\$) adj25 (blind\$ or mask\$)).ti,ab. 13. placebo\$.mp. [mp=title, cinahl subject headings, abstract, instrumentation] 14. Clinical Trials/ 15. (clinc\$ adj25 trials\$).mp. [mp=title, cinahl subject headings, abstract, instrumentation] 16. or/1-15
PubMed Cancer Subset	<p>#1 PSYCHOTHERAPY (MeSH)</p> <p>#2 (psychotherap* or aromatherap* or (art AND therapy*) or (autogenic AND training) or (behavior* AND therap*) or (behaviou* AND therap*) or (biofeedback and psycho*) or (cognitive AND therapy*) or (desensit* and psychol) or (implusive AND therap*) or (relax* AND therap*) or (relax* AND techniq*) or (therap* AND touch*) or (yoga*)</p> <p>#3 (bibliotherapy or (color* AND therap*) or (colour* AND therap*) or (music* AND therap*) or (hypno* AND therap*) or (imager* AND therap*) or (therapeutic AND counsele*) or (group* AND therap*) or (socio-environmental AND therap*) or (milieu AND therap*) or (therapeutic AND communite*) or (famil* AND therap*) or (support* AND group*) or (guide* AND image*)</p> <p>#4 #1 OR #2 OR #3</p>

Table 01. Additional search strategies (Continued)

Database searched	Search strategy used
#5 DEPRESSION (MeSH) #6 depression or depressive* or depressed #7 #5 OR #6 #8 NEOPLASMS (explode MeSH) #9 tumor* or tumour* or cancer* or carcinoma* or malignan* or neoplas*	#10 #8 OR #9 #11 #4 AND #7 AND #10 All Fields, Limits: Cancer The above search strategy was linked to the following Cochrane filter for PubMed: (randomized controlled trial [pt] OR controlled clinical trial [pt] OR randomized controlled trials [mb]) OR random allocation [mb] OR double-blind method [mb] OR single-blind method [mb] OR clinical trials [mb] OR clinical trial [pt] OR clinical trial "mb" OR ("clinical trial" [tw] OR ("singl*" [tw] OR doubl*) [rw] OR trebl*) [rw] OR tripl*) [rw]) AND (mask* [tw] OR blind* [tw])) OR (placebos [mb] OR placebo* [tw] OR random* [tw] OR research design [mb:noexp]) NOT (animals [mb] NOT human [mb])
PsychINFO via OVID	<p>1. exp PSYCHOTHERAPY/</p> <p>2. (psychotherap\$ or aromatherap\$ or "art therap\$" or "autogenic training" or "behavioral therap\$" or (behavioral adj6 therap\$) or (biorefeedback and psychos\$) or (cognitive adj6 therap\$) or (desensitiz and psychol\$) or "implosive therap\$" or (relax\$ adj6 techniq\$) or (therap\$ adj6 touch\$) or (yoga\$)</p> <p>3. (bibliotherapy or (color\$ adj6 therap\$) or (colour\$ adj6 therap\$) or (music\$ adj6 therap\$) or (hypno\$ adj6 therap\$) or (hypnos adj6 therap\$) or (socioenvironmental therap\$) or "socio environmental therap\$" or "milieu therap\$" or "milieu group\$" or (support\$ adj6 group\$) or (guides\$ adj6 "therapeutic communis\$" or (familis\$ adj6 therap\$) or psychos\$ or psycholog\$ or self help group\$) or (image\$))</p> <p>4. or/1-3</p> <p>5. exp RECURRENT DEPRESSION/ or exp REACTIVE DEPRESSION/ or exp TREATMENT RESISTANT DEPRESSION/ or exp "DEPRESSION (EMOTION)" or exp MAJOR DEPRESSION/</p> <p>6. (depression or depressive\$ or depressed)</p> <p>7. or/5-6</p> <p>8. exp NEOPLASMS/</p> <p>9. (tumor\$ or tumour\$ or cancer\$ or carcinoma\$ or malignan\$ or neoplas\$)</p> <p>10. or/8-9</p> <p>11. 4 and 7 and 10</p>

The above subject search strategy was run with the following filter:
CCT/RCT Filter for Embase (SRB revised)

1. (random\$ or (control\$ adj3 trial\$)).mp. [mp=title, abstract, subject headings, table of contents, key concepts]
2. ((singl\$ or doubl\$ or trebl\$ or tripl\$) adj (blind\$ or mask\$)).mp. [mp=title, abstract, subject headings, table of contents, key concepts]
3. placebo\$.mp. [mp=title, abstract, subject headings, table of contents, key concepts]
4. exp PLACEBO/

Table 01. Additional search strategies (Continued)

Database searched	Search strategy used
LILACS via www.bireme.br	((psychotherapy OR psychotherap\\$ OR aromatherap\\$ OR (art AND therapy) OR (autogenic AND training) OR (behavior\\$ AND therapy) OR (behaviour\\$ AND therapy) OR (biofeedback AND psycho\\$) OR (cognitive AND behavioural AND therapy) OR (cognitive AND behavioural AND therapy) OR (desensitiz\\$ AND psychol\\$) OR (impressive AND therapy) OR (relaxation AND therapy) OR (relaxation AND therapy) OR (relaxation AND techniques) OR (therapeutic AND touch) OR (touch AND therapy) OR (touch AND therapies) OR (yoga OR bibliotherapy OR (color AND therapy) OR (colour AND therapies) OR (color AND therapy) OR (colour AND therapies) OR (music AND therapy) OR hypnotherapy OR (imagery AND psychotherap\\$) OR (group AND therapy) OR (group AND therapies) OR (socio-environmental AND therapy) OR (socio-environmental AND therapy) OR (milieu AND therapy) OR (therapeutic AND community) OR (family AND therapy) OR (family AND therapies) OR (psychosoc\\$ OR (self AND help AND group) OR (self AND help AND groups) OR (support AND groups) OR (supportive AND group) OR (supportive AND groups) OR (guided AND imagery)) AND (depression OR depressive\\$ OR depressed OR depression) AND (necoplasm OR tumor\\$ OR tumour\\$ OR cancer\\$ OR carcinomas\\$ OR malignan\\$ OR neoplas\\$))
5. crossover,np.	
6. exp Treatment Effectiveness Evaluation/	
7. au/1-6	

A N A L Y S E S

Comparison 01. Psychotherapy versus treatment as usual

Outcome title	No. of studies	No. of participants	Statistical method	Effect size
01 Depression	6	517	Standardised Mean Difference (Random) 95% CI	-0.44 [-0.80, -0.08]
02 Anxiety	5	411	Standardised Mean Difference (Random) 95% CI	-0.68 [-1.37, 0.01]
03 Total Mood Disturbance	4	403	Standardised Mean Difference (Random) 95% CI	-0.94 [-1.87, -0.01]

Comparison 02. Subgroup analyses

Outcome title	No. of studies	No. of participants	Statistical method	Effect size
01 Depression	4	403	Standardised Mean Difference (Random) 95% CI	-0.58 [-1.02, -0.13]
02 Anxiety	4	403	Standardised Mean Difference (Random) 95% CI	-0.77 [-1.52, -0.01]
03 Total Mood Disturbance	4	403	Standardised Mean Difference (Random) 95% CI	-0.94 [-1.87, -0.01]

Comparison 03. Sensitivity analyses

Outcome title	No. of studies	No. of participants	Statistical method	Effect size
01 Depression	2	253	Standardised Mean Difference (Random) 95% CI	-0.35 [-0.65, -0.06]

C O V E R S H E E T

Title	Psychotherapy for depression among incurable cancer patients
Authors	Akechi T, Okuyama T, Onishi J, Morita T, Furukawa TA
Contribution of author(s)	T Akechi, J Onishi, T Morita, and TA Furukawa: conceptualized and designed the study. T Akechi, T Okuyama, and J Onishi: conducted the systematic review. T Akechi: conducted the statistical analysis of the study. TA Furukawa: supervised the process of the systematic review. All authors: interpreted the data and wrote the report.
Issue protocol first published	2005/4
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GRAPHS AND OTHER TABLES

Figure 01. Funnel plot for the outcome depression

Review: Psychotherapy for depression among incurable cancer patients
Comparison: 01 Psychotherapy versus treatment as usual
Outcome: 01 Depression

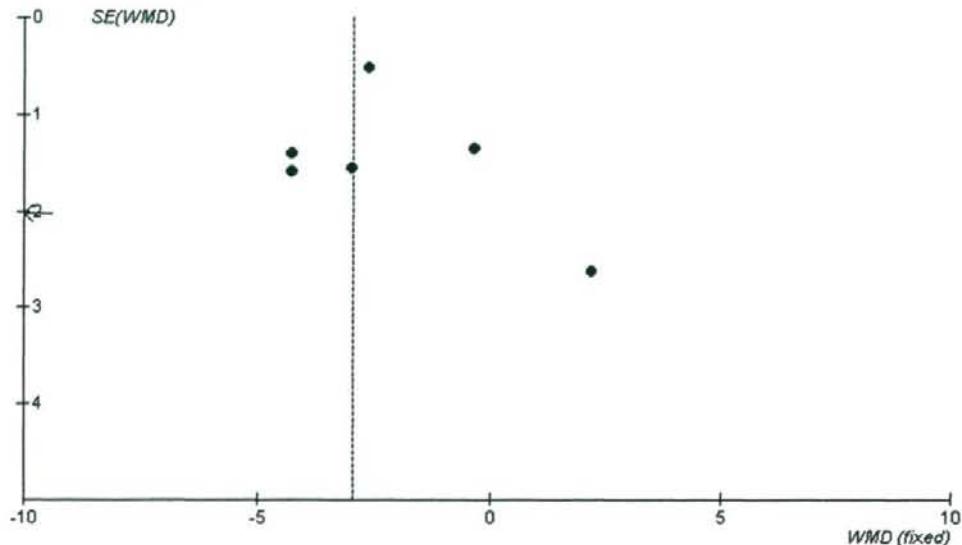


Figure 02. Funnel plot for the outcome anxiety

Review: Psychotherapy for depression among incurable cancer patients
Comparison: 01 Psychotherapy versus treatment as usual
Outcome: 02 Anxiety

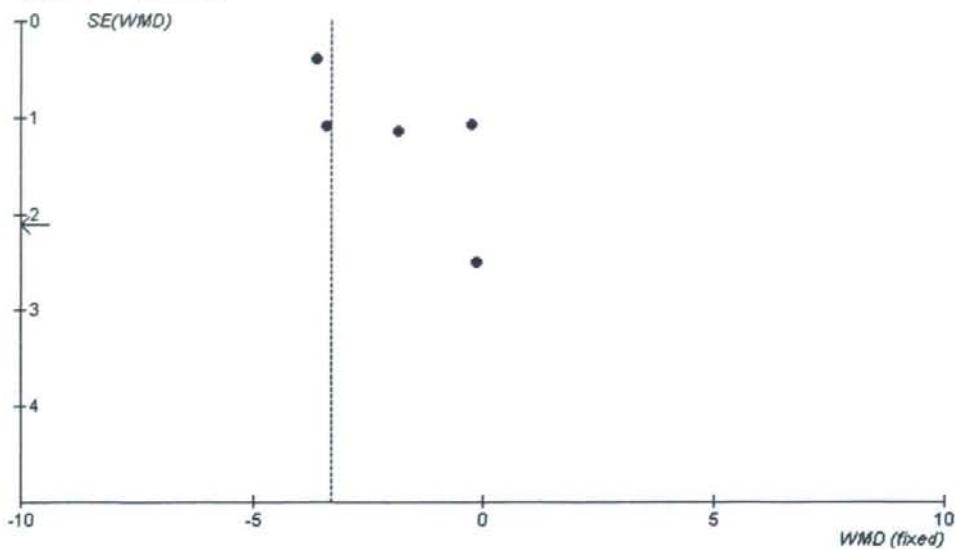
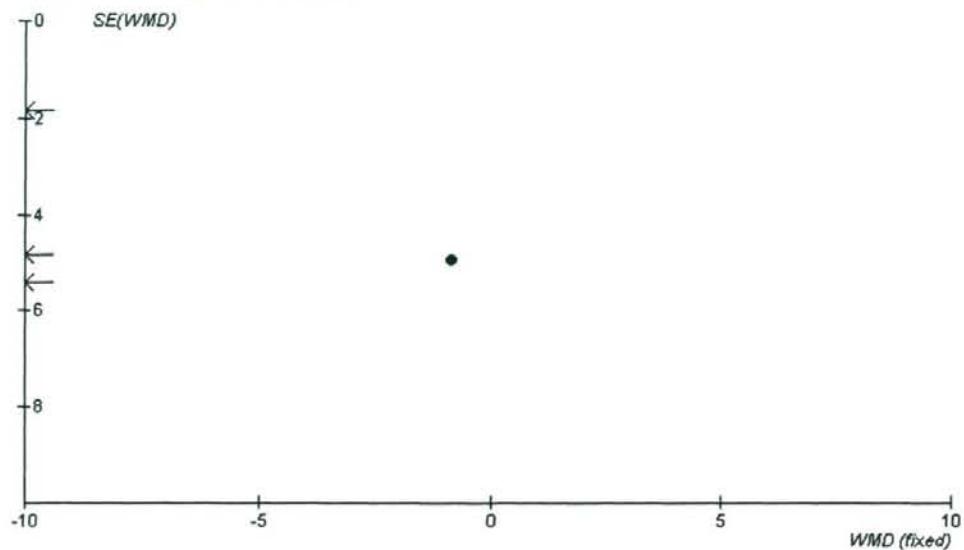


Figure 03. Funnel plot for the outcome total mood disturbance

Review: Psychotherapy for depression among incurable cancer patients
Comparison: 01 Psychotherapy versus treatment as usual
Outcome: 03 Total Mood Disturbance

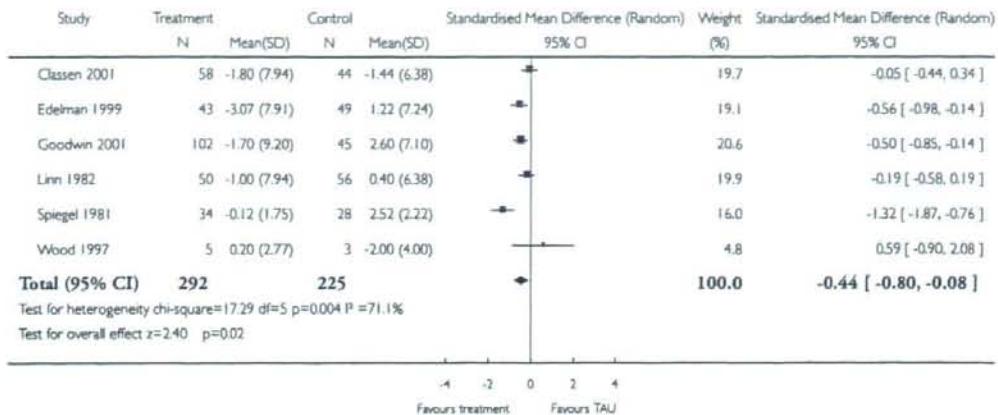


Analysis 01.01. Comparison 01 Psychotherapy versus treatment as usual, Outcome 01 Depression

Review: Psychotherapy for depression among incurable cancer patients

Comparison: 01 Psychotherapy versus treatment as usual

Outcome: 01 Depression

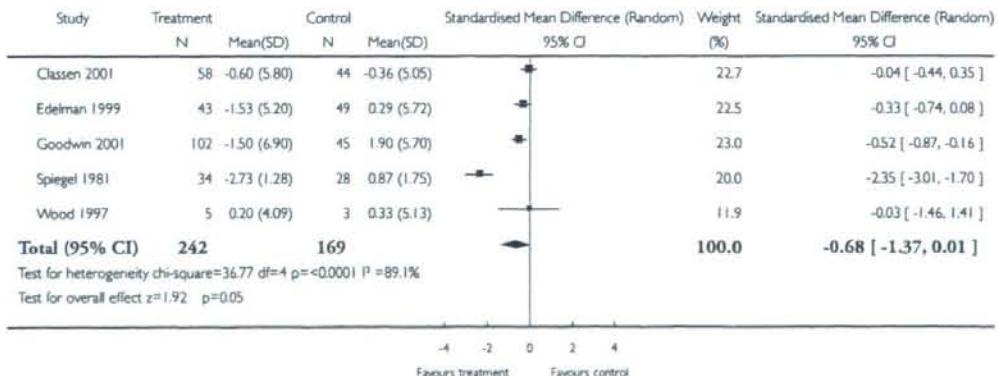


Analysis 01.02. Comparison 01 Psychotherapy versus treatment as usual, Outcome 02 Anxiety

Review: Psychotherapy for depression among incurable cancer patients

Comparison: 01 Psychotherapy versus treatment as usual

Outcome: 02 Anxiety

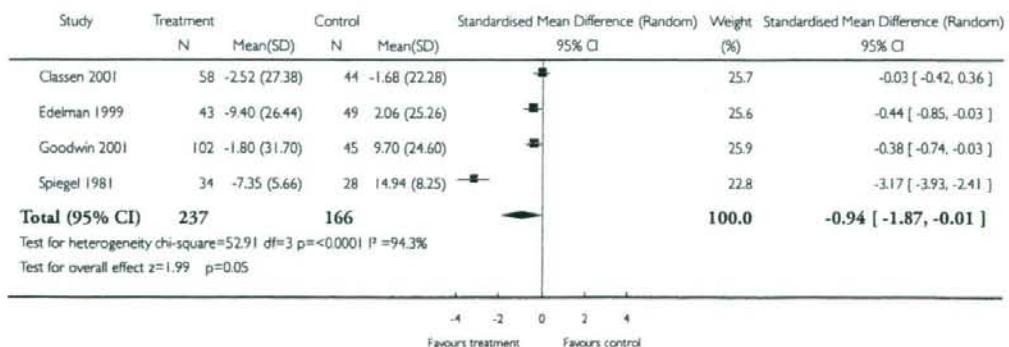


Analysis 01.03. Comparison 01 Psychotherapy versus treatment as usual, Outcome 03 Total Mood Disturbance

Review: Psychotherapy for depression among incurable cancer patients

Comparison: 01 Psychotherapy versus treatment as usual

Outcome: 03 Total Mood Disturbance

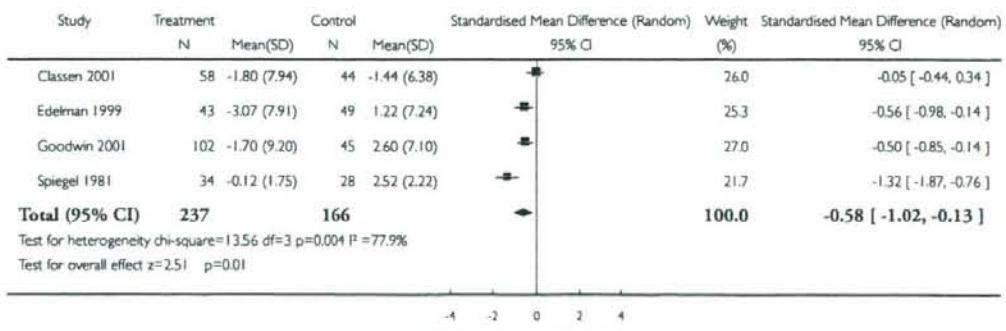


Analysis 02.01. Comparison 02 Subgroup analyses, Outcome 01 Depression

Review: Psychotherapy for depression among incurable cancer patients

Comparison: 02 Subgroup analyses

Outcome: 01 Depression

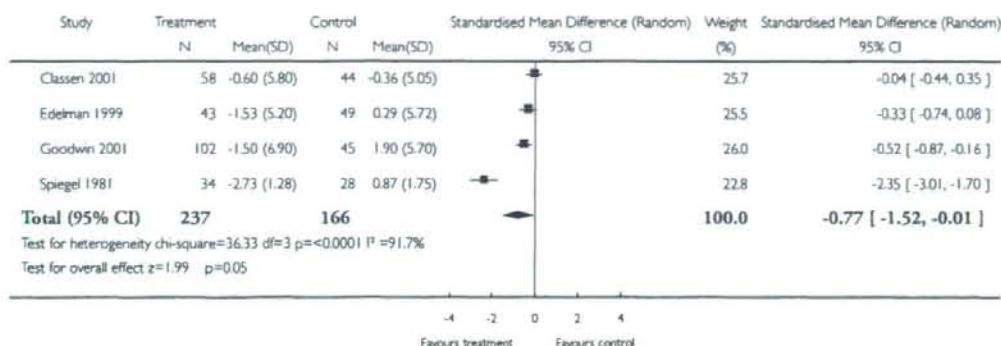


Analysis 02.02. Comparison 02 Subgroup analyses, Outcome 02 Anxiety

Review: Psychotherapy for depression among incurable cancer patients

Comparison: 02 Subgroup analyses

Outcome: 02 Anxiety

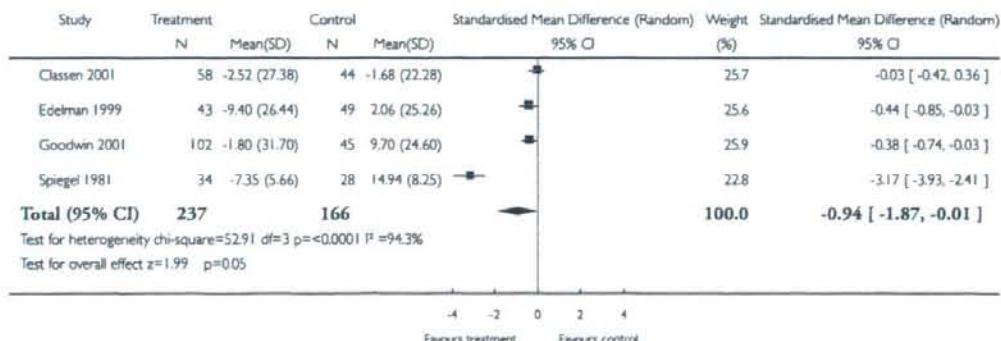


Analysis 02.03. Comparison 02 Subgroup analyses, Outcome 03 Total Mood Disturbance

Review: Psychotherapy for depression among incurable cancer patients

Comparison: 02 Subgroup analyses

Outcome: 03 Total Mood Disturbance

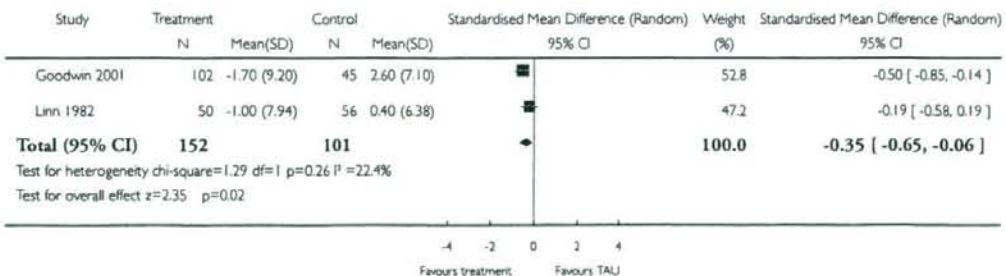


Analysis 03.01. Comparison 03 Sensitivity analyses, Outcome 01 Depression

Review: Psychotherapy for depression among incurable cancer patients

Comparison: 03 Sensitivity analyses

Outcome: 01 Depression



Psychiatric disorders and background characteristics of cancer patients' family members referred to psychiatric consultation service at National Cancer Center Hospitals in Japan

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ABSTRACT

Objective: Psychological distress of cancer patients' family members is treated by psychiatric consultation service for outpatients at National Cancer Center Hospitals in Japan. The purpose of this study was to identify psychiatric disorders and explore background characteristics of cancer patients' family members referred to psychiatric consultation service, so that we could better understand current utilization of this psychiatric consultation service for cancer patients' family members.

Methods: A retrospective descriptive study using clinical practice data obtained for 5 years (from January 2000 to December 2004) was conducted at two National Cancer Center Hospitals. We reviewed the psychiatric consultation database, computerized patient database of the National Cancer Center Hospitals, and medical charts of cancer patients' family members who were referred to psychiatry and their cancer patients.

Results: Out of a total of 4992 psychiatric consultations, 118 (2%) were for cancer patients' family members. The most common psychiatric disorders among cancer patients' family members were adjustment disorders ($n = 69$, 58%), followed by major depression ($n = 30$, 25%). Female ($n = 101$, 86%), spouse ($n = 87$, 74%), married ($n = 92$, 78%), and housewife ($n = 63$, 53%) were the most common background characteristics of the family members. Sixty-four percent of cancer patients ($n = 75$) were hospitalized at the time of their family members' referral and 34% of cancer patients ($n = 40$) had already received psychiatric consultation service and 55% of cancer patients ($n = 65$) had delivered bad news prior to their family members' referral.

Significance of the research: We found that very few family members were provided with psychiatric consultation service at two National Cancer Center Hospitals. Adjustment disorders are suggested to be the most common psychiatric disorders among cancer patients' family members.

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