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The Effectiveness of Cognitive Behavioral Therapy on Management of Symptoms in Rheumatoid Arthritis Patients

Miriam J. Morris Cedarville University, mjmorris@cedarville.edu

Bernadette F. Rowe Cedarville University, bernadetterowe@cedarville.edu

Jessica L. Stauf Cedarville University, jlstauf@cedarville.edu

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The Effectiveness of Cognitive Behavioral Therapy on Management of Symptoms in Rheumatoid Arthritis Patients

Miriam Morris, Bernadette Rowe, Jessica Stauf Cedarville University School of Nursing

PATIENT CARE ISSUE

Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA): Rheumatoid arthritis is an autoimmune, systemic, inflammatory condition causing pain and inflammation primarily in the joints of the hands and feet⁸

- Prevalence of RA is 0.5 % 1.1 % of the total world population⁹
- Psychological factors consistently predicted more of the variance in disability than did disease activity⁴

Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT): Mental techniques of situation and assumption appraisal, in which patients identify thoughts, assess their validity, and try to replace them with more realistic and positive viewpoints. CBT also encourages altered perceptions that influence behavior and encourages more mindful behavior⁴

EVIDENCE-BASED PRACTICE QUESTION

Question: In Rheumatoid Arthritis patients, what is the effect of CBT with pharmacological therapy compared to pharmacological therapy without **CBT** on management of symptoms?

P - Rheumatoid **Arthritis Patients** (18+)

I - CBT with Pharmacological therapy

C - Pharmacological therapy (standard care) without CBT

O - Symptom Management

REGISTERED NURSE INTERVIEW

- Patients "almost always" receive combination therapy¹
- Treatment focuses largely on non-pharmacological methods¹
- "When activities of daily living are harder to accomplish or no longer possible to accomplish independently, patient's mental health is largely affected" 1
- "CBT is an effective therapy for the psychosocial repercussions of the diagnosis of RA" 1

METHODS Inclusion Criteria Exclusion Criteria

intervention

2006-2016

articles

English full text

- Databases Utilized
- OneSearch • CINAHL
- PubMed
- MedLine
- **Keywords**
- CBT Rheumatoid Arthritis
- Non-Pharmacological Interventions
- Symptom Management
- Participants under CBT as an
- Published between Interventions other than CBT

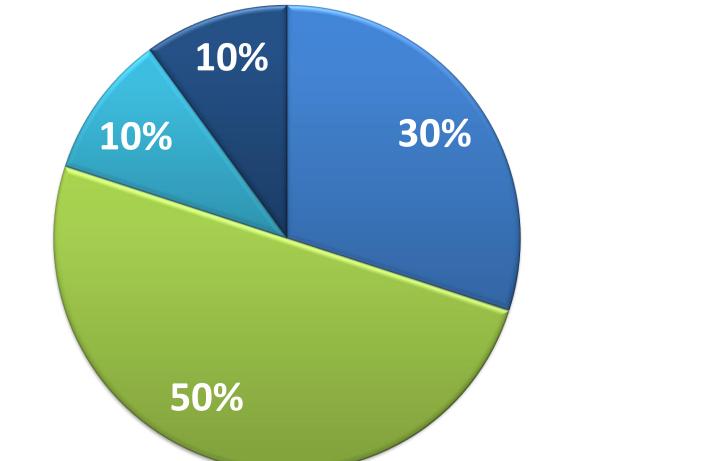
18 y/o

 Types of arthritis other than RA

13(4), 497-509.)

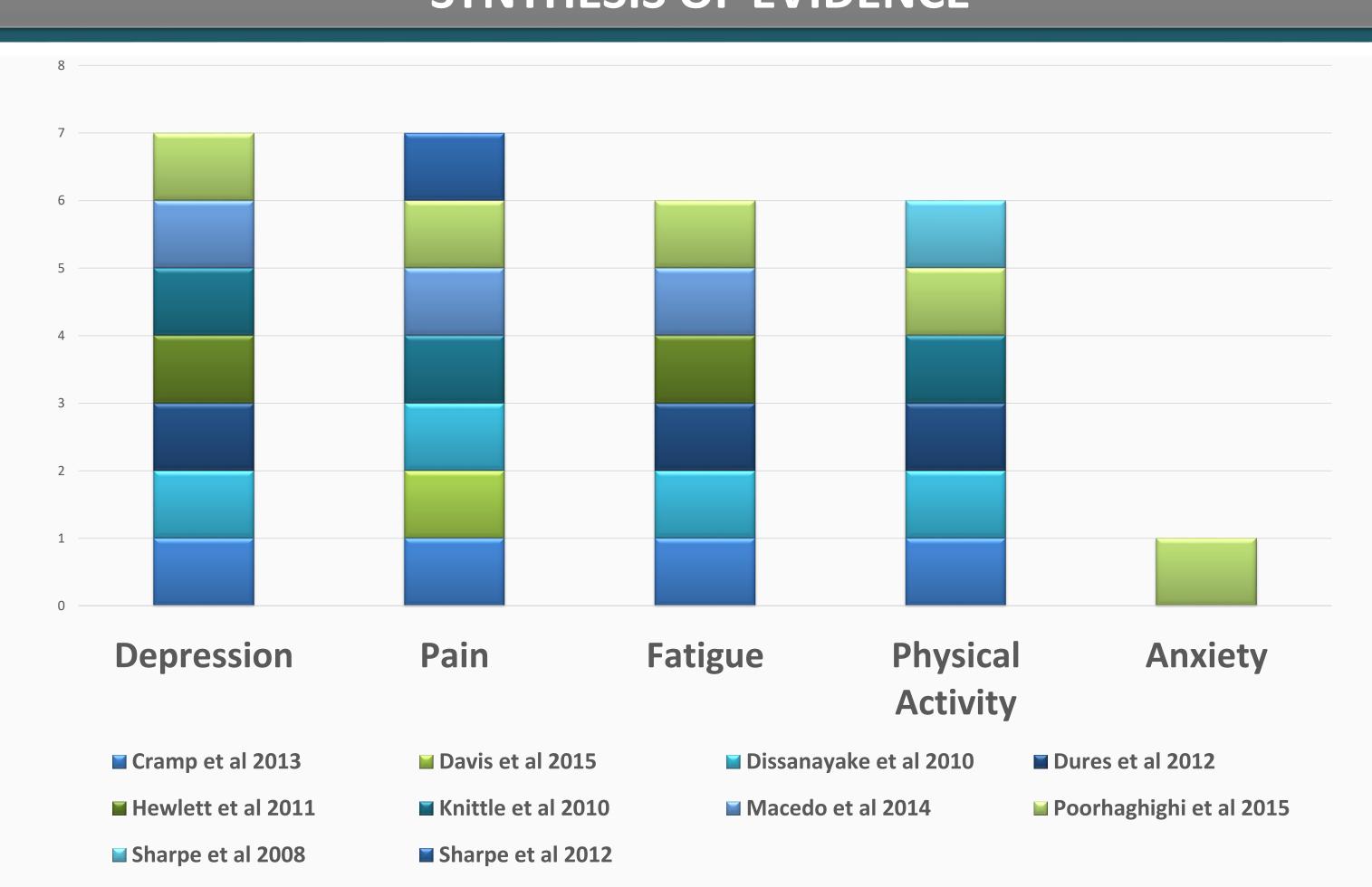
RESULTS

Review of Literature Results Of 96 articles found: 10 included



- Level 1 Meta-analysis (4) and systematic review (6,9)
- **Level 2 Randomized Control** Trials (2,3,5,7,8)
- **Level 5 Systematic Review** Summary (1)
- **■** Level 6 Phenomonology (10)

SYNTHESIS OF EVIDENCE



Additional Findings:

- Quality of life increased with the use of CBT⁹
- Patients highlighted that CBT elements were key to making behavior changes and that these had far-reaching impacts on their lives⁵
- The CBT groups used fewer health care resources than the control groups in the 5 years following intervention¹⁰

Evidence suggests that CBT is an effective intervention alongside pharmacological therapy on management of symptoms in RA.

EVIDENCE-BASED PRACTICE RECOMMENDATIONS

- The Iowa Model of Evidence-Based Practice to Promote Quality of Care was used as the guiding framework for this review of literature¹²
- Research evaluating the long term effects, overall quality of life, and maintenance therapy related to CBT should be explored further
- It could be beneficial in clinical practice to incorporate CBT approaches into patient education programs that aim to enhance self-management
- Research strongly suggests looking further into CBT as a type of adjunct therapy for RA

LIMITATIONS

- Self-reporting of symptoms and inconsistent blinding measures resulted in challenges to determine exact effects of each intervention^{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 9}
- Problematic to compare the reduction of symptoms when the articles varied in methods, time frames, and which symptoms were tested/reported
- Occurrences of homogeneity or small sample size in articles^{3, 5, 6, 7, 8}

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