

The application of a stress management program among Health Science Center students at Kuwait University

Submission date 09/11/2024	Recruitment status No longer recruiting	<input type="checkbox"/> Prospectively registered
		<input type="checkbox"/> Protocol
Registration date 12/11/2024	Overall study status Completed	<input type="checkbox"/> Statistical analysis plan
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Results
Last Edited 06/06/2025	Condition category Mental and Behavioural Disorders	<input type="checkbox"/> Individual participant data

Plain English summary of protocol

Background and study aims

The purpose of this research is to study the effectiveness of a stress management program among students at the Health Science Center (HSC), Kuwait University.

Who can participate?

Health Science students, HSC, Kuwait University

What does the study involve?

In this study, participants will be randomly assigned to one of two groups: (1) the control group or (2) the experimental (intervention) group. The participants receive a comprehensive educational seminar relevant to stress management (i.e., a presentation, written hand-outs and a structured home program). The seminar addresses nine topics pertaining to stress management strategies: breathing and imagery techniques; self-care routines; planning for success; meditation strategies; monitoring mechanisms for coping; seeking help for mental health, exercise and health; cognitive behavioral therapy tips (CBTs); and psychoeducation. The whole stress management program takes about one month.

Ethical approval will be obtained from the local institutional review board. Students will be invited to participate in the study through a QR code and a WhatsApp group. The purpose of the study will be explained to the students, and informed consent will be obtained. Confidentiality will be assured. Prior to random allocation, the participants will be contacted through an online form and asked to complete the online Depression Anxiety and Stress Scale-21 (DASS-21) and Perceived Stress Scale (PSS). At the end of the scale, the participants will be asked if they are willing to participate in the stress management programs. After participating in the stress management program, all participants will be asked to complete the scales again.

What are the possible benefits and risks of participating?

After participating in the stress management program, the study participants are expected to have significantly improved psychological symptoms including stress, anxiety and depressive symptoms. No risks are expected and confidentiality is assured.

Where is the study run from?
Kuwait University

When is the study starting and how long is it expected to run for?
October 2023 to May 2024

Who is funding the study?
Investigator initiated and funded

Who is the main contact?
Dr. Naser Mohammed Alotaibi, naser.alotaibi@ku.edu.kw

Contact information

Type(s)
Public, Scientific, Principal Investigator

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Additional identifiers

EudraCT/CTIS number
Nil known

IRAS number

ClinicalTrials.gov number
Nil known

Secondary identifying numbers
HSKU1

Study information

Scientific Title
The application of a stress management program among Health Science Center (HSC) students at Kuwait University: A quasi-experimental study

Acronym

Stress Management Program

Study objectives

It is hypothesized that introducing a stress management program tailored to the culture of Health Science Center (HSC) students at Kuwait University will significantly decrease stress and depression levels compared to a control group.

Ethics approval required

Ethics approval required

Ethics approval(s)

Approved 10/01/2024, Health Science Center Ethical Committee (P.O. box 24923 Safat, Kuwait City, 13110, Kuwait; +96524636203; hsc.ethicalcommittee@ku.edu.kw), ref: 580

Study design

Quasi-experimental study design

Primary study design

Interventional

Secondary study design

Non randomised study

Study setting(s)

Internet/virtual, Telephone, University/medical school/dental school

Study type(s)

Efficacy

Participant information sheet

Not available in web format, please use the contact details to request a participant information sheet

Health condition(s) or problem(s) studied

Psychological symptoms (i.e. stress, anxiety and depressive symptoms)

Interventions

The intervention involves the self-administration of a stress management program for 4 weeks that was developed by three faculty members from the occupational therapy and physical therapy departments.

The study used a quasi-experimental design conducted at Kuwait University, Kuwait. A quasi-experimental design was used, as a true randomized process was not performed. In other words, not all HSC students had the same chance of being selected because we did not have a complete list of all HSC students to choose from. This led to selection bias based only on the available HSC students, where random assignment was used only within a preexisting cohort. The participants will be randomly assigned to one of two groups: (1) the control group or (2) the experimental (intervention) group.

Students will be invited to participate in the study through a QR code and a WhatsApp group. The purpose of the study will be explained to the students, and informed consent obtained. Confidentiality is assured. Before random allocation, the participants will be contacted through an online form and asked to complete the online Depression Anxiety and Stress Scale-21 (DASS-21) and Perceived Stress Scale (PSS). At the end of the scale, the participants will be asked if they are willing to participate in the stress management programs. After participating in the stress management program, all participants will be asked to complete the survey again.

Intervention program (stress management program)

An orientation session and an educational seminar for the participants will be provided before starting the program, this will thoroughly explain and elaborate on the intervention by the faculty members to the experimental group. The stress management program includes three elements: (1) an oral presentation, (2) a booklet, and (3) a structured home program. The program content included the following components (intervention strategies): breathing and imagery techniques; self-care routine; planning for success; meditation strategies; monitoring mechanisms for coping; seeking help for mental health; exercise and health; cognitive behavioral therapy tips; and, psychoeducation.

Intervention Type

Behavioural

Primary outcome measure

1. Symptoms of depression, anxiety, and stress measured using the Depression Anxiety and Stress Scale-21 (DASS-21) at baseline and week 4
2. The perception of stress measured using the Perceived Stress Scale (PSS-10) at baseline and week 4

Secondary outcome measures

The perceptions of the intervention (stress management) program in the experimental group measured using a study questionnaire (3-point Likert scale) at week 4

Overall study start date

12/10/2023

Completion date

01/05/2024

Eligibility

Key inclusion criteria

1. Students from the HSC faculties, including medicine, dentistry, pharmacy, and allied health
2. 18 years of age and older
3. Had studied for two to seven years

Participant type(s)

Learner/student

Age group

Adult

Lower age limit

18 Years

Upper age limit

50 Years

Sex

Both

Target number of participants

240

Total final enrolment

98

Key exclusion criteria

1. Students from other faculties at Kuwait University
2. First-year students

Date of first enrolment

01/02/2024

Date of final enrolment

01/05/2024

Locations**Countries of recruitment**

Kuwait

Study participating centre

Health Science Center, Kuwait University

P.O. Box 31470

Sulaibekhat

Kuwait

90805

Sponsor information**Organisation**

Kuwait University

Sponsor details

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Sponsor type

University/education

Website

<https://www.ku.edu.kw/>

ROR

<https://ror.org/021e5j056>

Funder(s)

Funder type

Other

Funder Name

Investigator initiated and funded

Results and Publications

Publication and dissemination plan

Planned publication in a peer-reviewed journal

Intention to publish date

31/12/2024

Individual participant data (IPD) sharing plan

The datasets generated during and/or analysed during the current study are/will be available upon request from Dr. Naser Mohammed Alotaibi, naser.alotaibi@ku.edu.kw. Study data that support the findings of this study are not openly available for reasons of sensitivity.

IPD sharing plan summary

Available on request

Study outputs

Output type	Details	Date created	Date added	Peer reviewed?	Patient-facing?
Results article		12/05/2025	06/06/2025	Yes	No