

# Psychological flexibility intervention for young people with chronic pain and their parents

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<b>Registration date</b> 15/01/2021	<b>Overall study status</b> Completed	<input type="checkbox"/> Statistical analysis plan <input type="checkbox"/> Results
<b>Last Edited</b> 28/09/2021	<b>Condition category</b> Other	<input type="checkbox"/> Individual participant data <input type="checkbox"/> Record updated in last year

## Plain English summary of protocol

### Background and study aims

The study is about individuals and parents with chronic pain. The purpose of this study is to answer whether interventions to increase psychological flexibility (PF) are relevant and potentially beneficial in young people and their parents for the treatment of chronic pain. This research is necessary to improve the understanding of young people and their parents with chronic pain.

### Who can participate?

Malaysian young people aged 11 to 18 years with pain for 3 months or longer, and their parents.

### What does the study involve?

Participants will be asked to complete a survey which will take about 10 min. Participants (both parents, and young people with pain) will be recruited to join a training program.

Participants will be given a survey form to be answered both before and after the training programme. This form contains 6 sections that will enquire about demographic data, psychological flexibility, responses to child's symptoms, depression, anxiety and stress, functional disability, and child's behavior.

Participation in this study is voluntary and participants may refuse to answer any questions they do not want to answer and may withdraw from it at any time. Refusal to participate or withdrawal will not affect any medical or health benefits to which they are otherwise entitled.

### What are the possible benefits and risks of participating?

There may or may not be any benefits to participants. Information obtained from this study will help further research and identify the methods needed for further study, including answering a number of unknowns about the best focus, on parents, young people, or both, on recruitment and retention potential, best mode of treatment delivery, and appropriate measures to use. Participants will not be paid for participating in this study.

All information obtained in this study will be kept and handled in a confidential manner, in accordance with applicable laws and/or regulations. When publishing or presenting the study

results, participant identity will not be revealed without expressed consent. Individuals involved in this study, qualified monitors and auditors, and governmental or regulatory authorities may inspect the study data, where appropriate and necessary.

Participation in this study will not affect treatment, and the risk is minimal. Participants are free to decline to answer any of the questions that they feel uncomfortable with.

Where is the study run from?  
UCSI University (Malaysia)

When is the study starting and how long is it expected to run for?  
From September 2020 to January 2022

Who is funding the study?  
UCSI Research Excellence & Innovative Grant (Malaysia)

Who is the main contact?  
Ms Lee Sook Huey  
LeeSH@ucsiuniversity.edu.my

## Contact information

**Type(s)**  
Scientific

**Contact name**  
Ms Lee Sook Huey

**Contact details**  
UCSI Heights, 1  
Jalan Puncak Menara Gading  
Taman Connaught  
Cheras  
Wilayah Persekutuan Kuala Lumpur  
Selangor  
Malaysia  
56000  
+60 (0)3-9101 8880  
LeeSH@ucsiuniversity.edu.my

**Type(s)**  
Scientific

**Contact name**  
Dr Ji Kwan Lee

**Contact details**  
B21, Lebuhraya Selayang - Kepong  
Batu Caves  
Selangor  
Malaysia

68100  
+60 (0)3-9101 8880  
21083@ucsiuniversity.edu.my

## **Additional identifiers**

### **Clinical Trials Information System (CTIS)**

Nil known

### **ClinicalTrials.gov (NCT)**

Nil known

### **Protocol serial number**

Nil known

## **Study information**

### **Scientific Title**

Application of the psychological flexibility model to young people with chronic pain and their parents

### **Study objectives**

1. Psychological flexibility will predict the psychological well-being and functioning of parents and young people with pain
2. Parents and young people with chronic pain in the treatment group with psychological flexibility will show better psychological well-being and functioning as compared to the control group and treatment as usual group

### **Ethics approval required**

Old ethics approval format

### **Ethics approval(s)**

Approved 19/01/2021, National Medical Research Register (NMRR) (Ministry of Health Malaysia, c/o Institute for Health Management, Block A, Kompleks Institut Kesihatan Negara (NIH), No 1 Jalan Setia Murni U13/52, Seksyen U13 Bandar Setia Alam, 40170 Shah Alam, Malaysia; +60 (0)3-3362 8888/8205), ref: NMRR NMRR-20-2780-57093

### **Study design**

Cross-sectional study and multicenter interventional randomized controlled trial

### **Primary study design**

Interventional

### **Study type(s)**

Treatment

### **Health condition(s) or problem(s) studied**

Chronic pain in young people

### **Interventions**

Study 1 uses a cross-sectional survey to unexplored facets of psychological flexibility (PF), design features, and practical methods for enhancing PF for parents and young people with pain conditions.

An online questionnaire will be disseminated through the internet to recruit 50 Malaysian parents of young people with pain conditions via purposeful sampling. The questionnaire will give brief descriptions of treatment focused on PF and ACT for parents of young people with pain conditions in different modes (such as face to face or online, group or individuals, continuous or intermittent, short or long duration), and parents will state their preference through a ratings scale. Participants will also be allowed to give qualitative responses with optional open-ended questions. The questionnaire will also include items to assess parent's belief on the effectiveness of the proposed program, and motivations and barriers to attending such a program. Demographic predictors of parents' interest to participate in the program will also be assessed (including age group of young people with pain conditions, types of pain conditions, severity of pain conditions, and disability).

Study 2 is a study with pre-test post-test control group design to test the feasibility and effectiveness of the prototype treatment for parents and young people with pain conditions.

Parents and young people (11-18 years old) with pain conditions will be recruited from local hospitals via purposeful sampling. A feasibility study with pre-test post-test control group design will be conducted. Based on Lancaster, Dodd & Williamson's recommendation of an overall sample size of 30 for a feasibility study, 30 parents will be randomly assigned to one of either:

1. PF-focused parent training program group
2. Comparison group (using a brief motivational interviewing intervention)
3. Treatment as usual group

The program will be delivered by a clinical psychologist with knowledge and experiences in pain psychology. During pre and post-test, parents will complete a demographic questionnaire, measure of parental psychological flexibility (e.g. Parent Psychological Flexibility Questionnaire, Adult Responses to Children's Symptoms scale), measure of parental psychological stress and well-being (Depression, Anxiety and Stress inventory), and children's psychological well-being and functioning (e.g. Functional Disability Inventory, school attendance, Child Behavior Checklist). Young people will complete the visual analogy scale and the Chronic Pain Acceptance Questionnaire adolescent version (CPAQ-A) during pre-test and post-test.

## **Intervention Type**

Other

## **Primary outcome(s)**

1. Parental psychological flexibility measured by the Parent Psychological Flexibility Questionnaire (PPFQ) and Adult Responses to Children's Symptoms scale (ARCS) at 1 and 14 days
2. Parental psychological stress and well-being measured by the Depression, Anxiety, and Stress inventory (DASS) at 1 and 14 days
3. Children's psychological well-being and functioning measured by the Functional Disability Inventory (FDI), school attendance, and the Child Behavior Checklist) at 1 and 14 days
4. Pain measured by visual analogy scale (VAS) and the Chronic Pain Acceptance Questionnaire adolescent version (CPAQ-A) at 1 and 14 days

## **Key secondary outcome(s)**

1. Preferred treatment mode (including face to face or online, group or individuals, continuous or intermittent, short or long duration) measured using a rating scale and qualitative responses with optional open-ended questions at 24 h
2. Parent's belief on the effectiveness of the proposed program, and motivations and barriers to attending the program measured by questionnaire at 24 h
3. Demographic predictors of parents' interest to participate in the program (including the age group of young people with pain conditions, types of pain conditions, the severity of pain conditions, and disability) measured by questionnaire at 24 h

**Completion date**

31/01/2022

## Eligibility

**Key inclusion criteria**

1. Malaysian citizen
2. Young people aged 11 to 18 years with pain conditions, and their parents
3. Pain of  $\geq 3$  months duration
4. Able to read and write

**Participant type(s)**

Mixed

**Healthy volunteers allowed**

No

**Age group**

Mixed

**Sex**

All

**Key exclusion criteria**

1. Receiving other psychological treatments
2. Acute signs or symptoms
3. Significant levels of depression, anxiety or anger, learning disability, or other difficulties which would affect the ability to participate in the study
4. Significant medical condition that would compromise the ability to participate in the study
5. Unable to attend the full programme
6. Do not provide informed consent

**Date of first enrolment**

01/01/2021

**Date of final enrolment**

31/12/2021

## Locations

**Countries of recruitment**

Malaysia

**Study participating centre**

**Hospital Selayang**

B21, Lebuhraya Selayang - Kepong

Batu Caves

Selangor

Malaysia

46100

## Sponsor information

**Organisation**

UCSI University

**ROR**

<https://ror.org/019787q29>

## Funder(s)

**Funder type**

University/education

**Funder Name**

UCSI University

## Results and Publications

**Individual participant data (IPD) sharing plan**

Participant data will be included in the study, Individual participant data that underlie the results reported in this article, after deidentification (text, tables, figures, and appendices) will be shared. The data will be available beginning 9 months and ending 36 months following article publication. Investigators whose proposed use of the data has been approved by an independent review committee ("learned intermediary") identified for this purpose.

**IPD sharing plan summary**

Other