

Cultivating a transcendent mindset to improve mental health

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| Submission date 16/03/2024 | Recruitment status No longer recruiting | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Prospectively registered <input type="checkbox"/> Protocol |
| Registration date 25/03/2024 | Overall study status Completed | <input type="checkbox"/> Statistical analysis plan <input type="checkbox"/> Results |
| Last Edited 25/03/2024 | Condition category Mental and Behavioural Disorders | <input type="checkbox"/> Individual participant data <input type="checkbox"/> Record updated in last year |

Plain English summary of protocol

Background and study aims

As research on self-transcendent emotions in psychology has progressed, it has become evident that these emotional states offer significant benefits for individual mental health.

This research delves into the physiological effects observed when individuals experience these emotions. Self-transcendent emotions encapsulate a range of feelings aimed at fostering a positive emotional and mental state where attention shifts from the self to the surroundings and beyond. This shift resembles a heightened awareness, providing a broader perspective on existence. Conversely, stress often induces tunnel vision and narrow focus. Studies indicate that self-transcendent emotions prompt a parasympathetic response in the nervous system, enhancing present moment awareness and promoting greater social engagement with the environment.

There appears to be a natural connection between these positive emotions and overall well-being, prompting this study to further explore by implementing a structured program and assessing its impact on the targeted group.

The research question posits whether individuals can cultivate self-transcendent emotions through specific techniques designed to enhance awareness and induce calmness. Additionally, the study aims to determine if these techniques effectively reduce stress, anxiety, and depression.

Who can participate?

Participants aged 18-65 years from the adult psychiatric clinic in Örnköldsvik, Sweden.

What does the study involve?

Twenty participants will undergo a 12-week program. Another twenty participants will access the program remotely through the 1177 digital platform, a tool in healthcare for remote self-help training, catering to those unable or unwilling to attend in-person sessions.

The program involves a structured regimen of simple circulatory movements, breathwork, awareness practices, and guided imagery exercises targeting specific self-transcendent

emotions, such as compassion, gratitude, joy, and awe. Evaluations will occur through a series of survey questions administered four times throughout the program: at the outset, at weeks 5 and 9, and upon completion.

What are the possible benefits and risks of participating?

Benefits include equipping participants with tools to enhance well-being, potentially augmenting other treatment modalities. Additionally, offering the program remotely accommodates individuals averse to hospital attendance, thereby improving accessibility to treatments.

Where is the study run from?

Adult psychiatry Örnköldsvik (Sweden)

When is the study starting and how long is it expected to run for?

August 2023 to December 2024

Who is funding the study?

Adult psychiatry Örnköldsvik (Sweden)

Who is the main contact?

Christina Andersson, christina.andersson@rvn.se

Contact information

Type(s)

Public, Scientific, Principal Investigator

Contact name

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Additional identifiers

EudraCT/CTIS number

Nil known

IRAS number

ClinicalTrials.gov number

Nil known

Secondary identifying numbers

Nil known

Study information

Scientific Title

Cultivating a transcendent mindset to reduce mental ill-health. A pilot study in adult psychiatric patient.

Study objectives

Cultivating a transcendent mindset to reduce mental ill-health on adult psychiatric patients. Reducing signs of mental ill-health such as stress and anxiety as well as increasing levels of self transcendence emotions through observation/awareness practices, techniques that will help balance the nervous system and mental exercises involving compassion, joy, gratitude and awe.

Ethics approval required

Ethics approval required

Ethics approval(s)

Submitted 09/01/2024, Swedish Ethical Review Authority (Box 2110, Uppsala, 75002, Sweden; +46 10-475 08 00; registrator@etikprovning.se), ref: 202400108-01

Study design

Interventional non randomized

Primary study design

Interventional

Secondary study design

Non randomised study

Study setting(s)

Other

Study type(s)

Treatment

Participant information sheet

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

Health condition(s) or problem(s) studied

Reducing mental ill-health in adult psychiatric patients

Interventions

The study has a within group design. The patients will follow a digitally delivered, 12 week program and the intervention will be given in a group format and also individually, so some patients can follow the program at home.

The programs contain a regular routine of simple circulatory movements, breathwork combined with awareness practices and guided imagery exercises addressing a few specific self-transcendent emotions, in this case compassion, gratitude, joy and awe.

Intervention Type

Behavioural

Primary outcome measure

Measured at baseline, at 8 weeks (half-time) and at the end at 12 weeks:

1. Dispositional Positive Emotion Scale, DPES
2. The Gratitude Questionnaire – Six Item Form (GQ-6)
3. The Self-compassion Scale (SCS)
4. Hospital anxiety and depression scale (HAD-S)
5. The Montgomery-Åsberg Depression Rating Scale (MADRS)
6. Single item stress question (SISQ)
7. The Difficulties in Emotion Regulation Scale (DERS-16)
8. The functions of self-criticizing/attacking scale (FSCS)
9. Shirom-Melamed Burnout Questionnaire

Secondary outcome measures

There are no secondary outcome measures

Overall study start date

01/08/2023

Completion date

01/12/2024

Eligibility

Key inclusion criteria

1. PTSD
2. ADHD
3. Bipolar
4. Depression
5. Anxiety
6. Autism
7. Burn-out, (symptoms associated with burnout include emotional exhaustion, depersonalization, impaired personal accomplishment, difficulty concentrating, impaired memory, irritability, fatigue, and cognitive problems)

Participant type(s)

Patient

Age group

Adult

Lower age limit

18 Years

Upper age limit

65 Years

Sex

Both

Target number of participants

40

Key exclusion criteria

1. Acute suicidal
2. Difficulties understanding Swedish language

Date of first enrolment

26/03/2024

Date of final enrolment

30/04/2024

Locations

Countries of recruitment

Sweden

Study participating centre**Adult Psychiatry Service**

Storgatan 62

Örnsköldsvik

Sweden

89134

Sponsor information

Organisation

Adult Psychiatry Örnsköldsvik

Sponsor details

Storgatan 62

Örnsköldsvik

Sweden

89145

+46 660-89726

fb.psykmottagningen.ornskoldsvik@rvn.se

Sponsor type

Hospital/treatment centre

Website

<https://www.1177.se>

Funder(s)

Funder type

Hospital/treatment centre

Funder Name

Adult psychiatry Örnköldsvik

Results and Publications

Publication and dissemination plan

Planned publication in a high-impact peer-reviewed journal.

Intention to publish date

15/01/2025

Individual participant data (IPD) sharing plan

The dataset generated during and/or analysed during the current study will be available upon request from christina andersson email: christina.andersson@rvn.se

IPD sharing plan summary

Available on request