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An investigation into the merits of using a computer in the clinical assessment of children

Submission date	Recruitment status	[ ] Prospectively registered
12/09/2003	No longer recruiting	[ ] Protocol
Registration date	**Overall study status**	[ ] Statistical analysis plan
12/09/2003	Completed	[ ] Results
Last Edited	**Condition category**	[ ] Individual participant data
30/10/2019	Mental and Behavioural Disorders	[ ] Record updated in last year

Plain English summary of protocol
Not provided at time of registration

Contact information

Type(s)
Scientific

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Additional identifiers

Protocol serial number
N0129118585

Study information

Scientific Title
An investigation into the merits of using a computer in the clinical assessment of children

Study objectives
The project aims to assess the merits of an established computer-assisted interview for children, the MacInterview, developed by Calam et al. (2000). The MacInterview will be compared with an equivalent paper-based interview, with particular focus on the child's engagement with the interview, the amount of information derived, the time-efficiency of the procedure, and the child's enjoyment of the procedure.

Ethics approval required
Old ethics approval format

Ethics approval(s)
Not provided at time of registration

Primary study design
Interventional

Study design
Randomised controlled trial

Study type(s)
Diagnostic

Health condition(s) or problem(s) studied
Mental and Behavioural Disorders: child psychology

Interventions
A. MacInterview
B. Interview using equivalent material presented in a paper-based format

The study will use an experimental (between-subjects) design involving two groups of children. One group will receive the MacInterview, the other will receive an interview using equivalent material presented in a paper-based format. Allocation to the groups will be randomised.

Each child will be interviewed on one occasion for approximately 45 minutes. The interview format will involve the child in activities including:
1. Choosing an image to represent her-/himself from a range of outline drawings of children of different sizes and ethnic origins
2. Choosing drawings to represent home and school settings which s/he has experienced and people connected with those settings
3. Working with outline faces depicting different emotional expressions (happy, sad, worried, etc)
4. Selecting representations of particular people s/he associates with particular emotions in each setting

All interviews will be video-taped to enable data to be obtained from subsequent analysis of the tapes by the researcher.

Intervention Type
Other

Phase

Not Specified

Primary outcome(s)
Comparison in each interview format of:
1. The number and length (word count) of the child's verbal utterances
2. The amount of time spent "on task", as opposed to attending to external distractions
3. The amount of "standard" information obtained (i.e. information provided in answering the interview questions)
4. The amount of "additional" information obtained (i.e. information volunteered by the child over and above that given in response to the interview questions)
5. The amount of "emotion-focused" information obtained (i.e. information relating to the child's feelings or emotional states)
6. The amount of time required to complete the procedure
7. The child's rating of his/her enjoyment of the interview

Key secondary outcome(s)
Not provided at time of registration

Completion date
04/11/2003

Eligibility

Key inclusion criteria
Children aged between seven and 11 years (inclusive) referred to the Child and Adolescent Psychology Department, Carol Kendrick Unit, Withington Hospital, Nell Lane, West Didsbury, Manchester.

Participant type(s)
Patient

Healthy volunteers allowed
No

Age group
Child

Lower age limit
7 Years

Upper age limit
11 Years

Sex
Not Specified

Key exclusion criteria
Not applicable

Date of first enrolment

04/11/2002

Date of final enrolment
04/11/2003

Locations

Countries of recruitment
United Kingdom

England

Study participating centre
School of Psychiatry and Behavioural Sciences, Manchester University
Stoke-on-Trent
United Kingdom
ST10 2LD

Sponsor information

Organisation
Department of Health (UK)

Funder(s)

Funder type
Government

Funder Name
Central Manchester and Manchester Children's University Hospitals NHS Trust (UK)

Results and Publications

Individual participant data (IPD) sharing plan

IPD sharing plan summary
Not provided at time of registration