

Should general practitioners manage chronic fatigue syndrome? A controlled trial

Submission date 23/01/2004	Recruitment status No longer recruiting	☐ Prospectively registered ☐ Protocol
Registration date 23/01/2004	Overall study status Completed	☐ Statistical analysis plan ☒ Results
Last Edited 29/10/2019	Condition category Signs and Symptoms	☐ Individual participant data

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
PSI06-16

Study information

Scientific Title
Should general practitioners manage chronic fatigue syndrome? A controlled trial

Study objectives

A pragmatic randomised controlled trial was conducted in general practice to test the hypotheses that general practitioners could (a) diagnose and (b) treat patients with the Chronic Fatigue Syndrome (CFS).

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)

Other

Health condition(s) or problem(s) studied

Other symptoms and general pathology

Interventions

The intervention we attempted to introduce was a form of brief behavioural therapy, offered to GPs as a management package. Control practices were invited to manage their patients as usual, which in many cases included referral to secondary care.

Intervention Type

Other

Phase

Not Applicable

Primary outcome(s)

The study suffered from both poor recruitment and high drop out. However, we were able to show that this intervention had no effect on the illness of the patients enrolled, and that patients with CFS remained highly disabled over the 12 month study period, whatever their treatment. The study suggests that general practitioners can diagnose CFS, but under the conditions of this study were unable to effectively treat the condition. This accords with the recent Royal Colleges' report, that early recognition in primary care is important, but that the only evidence for effective treatment thus far has come from specialist units. General practitioners do not yet generally have the skills nor the time to provide effective treatment programmes for CFS.

Key secondary outcome(s)

Not provided at time of registration

Completion date

01/02/1998

Eligibility

Key inclusion criteria

General Practices willing to take part.

Participant type(s)

Patient

Healthy volunteers allowed

No

Age group

Not Specified

Sex

Not Specified

Key exclusion criteria

Does not meet inclusion criteria

Date of first enrolment

01/04/1995

Date of final enrolment

01/02/1998

Locations

Countries of recruitment

United Kingdom

England

Study participating centre

Department of Public Health and Primary Care

Willerby

United Kingdom

HU10 6NS

Sponsor information

Organisation

Record Provided by the NHS R&D 'Time-Limited' National Programme Register - Department of Health (UK)

Funder(s)

Funder type

Government

Funder Name

NHS Primary and Secondary Care Interface National Research and Development Programme (UK)

Results and Publications

Individual participant data (IPD) sharing plan

IPD sharing plan summary

Not provided at time of registration

Study outputs

Output type	Details	Date created	Date added	Peer reviewed?	Patient-facing?
Results article	results	01/01/2002	29/10/2019	Yes	No