

Clinical Peer-Reviewed Publications Inventory

[Includes clinical research and scholarly publications](#)

Date: August 2024

Table of Contents

Click on the paper title in the table of contents to be taken to the abstract.

Art Therapy Publications (17)

Authors and Title	Page Number
Berberian, M., Walker, M.S., & Kaimal, G. "Master My Demons:" Art Therapy Montage Painting by Active-Duty Military Service Members with Traumatic Brain Injury and Post-Traumatic Stress	5
Herman, J. and Chilton, G. Art therapy with military families: The animal strengths and family environment directive	7
Jones, J.P., Drass, J.M., & Kaimal, G. Art Therapy for Military Service Members with Post-Traumatic Stress and Traumatic Brain Injury: Three Case Reports Highlighting Trajectories of Treatment and Recovery	9
Jones, J.P., Walker, M.S., Drass, J.M., & Kaimal, G. Art therapy interventions for active-duty service members with post-traumatic stress disorder and traumatic brain injury	11
Kaimal, G., Jones, J.P., Dieterich-Hartwell, R.M., Acharya, B., & Wang, X. Evaluation of Long- and Short-Term Art Therapy Interventions in an Integrative Care Setting for Military Service Members with Post-Traumatic Stress and Traumatic Brain Injury	13
Kaimal, G., Jones, J.P., Dieterich-Hartwell, R.M., & Wang, X. Long-Term Art Therapy Clinical Interventions with Military Service Members with Traumatic Brain Injury and Post-Traumatic Stress: Findings from a Mixed	15

Methods Program Evaluation Study	
Kaimal, G., Walker, M. S., Berberian, M. G., Herres, J.M., & DeGraba, T.M. Examining Associations Between Montage Painting Imagery and Symptoms of Depression and Posttraumatic Stress Among Active-Duty Military Service Members	17
Kaimal, G., Walker, M. S., Herres, J., French, L.M., & DeGraba, T. J. Observational Associations Between Visual Imagery and Measures of Depression, Anxiety, and Post-Traumatic Stress Among Active-Duty Military Service Members with Traumatic Brain Injury at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center	19
Landless, B.M., Walker, M. S., & Kaimal, G. Using Human and Computer-Based text Analysis of Clinical Notes to Understand Military Service Members' Experiences with Therapeutic Writing	21
Maltz, B., Hoyt, T., Uomoto, J., & Herodes, M. A Case Analysis of Service Member Trauma Processing Related to Art Therapy within a Military-Intensive Outpatient Program	23
Payano Sosa, J., Srikanchana, R., Walker, M., Stamper, A., King, J., Olinger, J., Bonavia, G., Workman, C., Darda, K., Chatterjee, A. & Sours Rhodes, C. Increased Functional Connectivity in Military Service Members Presenting a Psychological Closure and Healing Theme in Art Therapy Masks	25
Walker, M.S., Kaimal, G., Gonzaga, A.M. L., Myers-Coffman, K.A., & DeGraba, T.J. Active-Duty Military Service Members' Visual Representations of PTSD and TBI in Masks	27
Walker, M. S., Kaimal, G., Koffman, R., & DeGraba, T. J. Art Therapy for PTSD and TBI: A Senior Active Duty Military Service Member's Therapeutic Journey	29
Walker, M.S., Stamper, A. M., Nathan, D. E., & Riedy, G. Art Therapy and Underlying fMRI Brain Patterns in Military TBI: A Case Series	31

Estrada Gonzalez, V., Meletaki, V., Walker, M., Payano Sosa, J., Stamper, A., Srikanthana, R., ... & Chatterjee, A. Art therapy masks reflect emotional changes in military personnel with post-traumatic stress symptoms	33
Malhotra, B., Jones, L. C., Spooner, H., Levy, C., Kaimal, G., & Williamson, J. B. A conceptual framework for a neurophysiological basis of art therapy for PTSD.	35
Arslanbek, A., Malhotra, B., Stickley, K. S., Herres, J., Spooner, H., Lamb, D. G., ... & Kaimal, G. Exploring the evocative qualities of masks' visual imagery and their associations with adversity and trauma.	37

Music Therapy Publications (10)

Authors and Title	Page Number
Bradt, J., Biondo, J., & Vaudreuil, R. Songs Created by Military Service Members in Music Therapy: A Retrospective Analysis	29
Bronson, H., Vaudreuil, R., & Bradt, J. Music Therapy Treatment of Active Duty Military: An Overview of Intensive Outpatient and Longitudinal Care Programs	41
Gooding, L.F. & Langston, D.G. Music Therapy with Military Populations: A Scoping Review	43
Story, K., Bravata, D., Robb, S., Wasmuth, S., Slaven, J., Whitmire, L., Barker, B., Menen, T., and Bair, M.	45

Feasibility and Acceptability of Music Imagery and Listening Interventions for Analgesia: Protocol for a Randomized Controlled Trial	
Vaudreuil, R., Avila, L., Bradt, J., & Pasquina, P. Music Therapy Applied to Complex Blast Injury in an Interdisciplinary Model: A Case Report	47
Vaudreuil, R., Biondo, J., & Bradt, J. Music Therapy with Active-Duty Service Members: Group Protocol Description and Secondary Analysis of Protocol Evaluations	49
Vaudreuil, R., Bronson, H., & Bradt, J. Bridging the Clinic to Community: Music Performance as Social Transformation for Military Service Members	51
Vaudreuil, R., Langston, D. G., Magee, W. L., Betts, D. J., Kass, S., & Levy, C. Implementing Music Therapy through Telehealth: Considerations for Military Populations	53
Vetro-Kalseth, D., Vaudreuil, R. & Segall, L. E. Treatment Description and Case Series Report of A Phased Music Therapy Group to Support Veteran Reintegration	55
Vaudreuil, R., Nordstrom, M., DeGraba, T., & Pasquina, P. The role of technology in music therapy, occupational therapy, and co-treatment of an injured United States service member.	57

Multidisciplinary Creative Arts Therapies Publications (3)

Authors and Title	Page Number
Chilton, G., Vaudreuil, R., Freeman, E.K., McLaughlan, N., Herman, J., & Cozza, S.J. Creative Forces Programming with Military Families: Art Therapy, Dance Movement Therapy, and Music Therapy Brief Vignettes	59
Spooner, H., Lee, J.B., Langston, D. G., Sanke, J., Myers, K. J., & Levy, C.E. Using Distance Technology to Deliver the Creative Arts Therapies to Veterans: Case Studies in Art, Dance/Movement and Music Therapy	61
Levy, C. E., Uomoto, J. M., Betts, D., & Hoenig, H. Creative Arts Therapies in Rehabilitation	63

"Master My Demons:" Art Therapy Montage Painting by Active-Duty Military Service Members with Traumatic Brain Injury and Post-Traumatic Stress

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7029253/>

Authors

Berberian, M., Walker, M.S., & Kaimal, G.

Publication Date

2018

Publisher

Medical Humanities (Impact factor = 1.343)

Volume/Issue/Pages

45(4), 353-360

Abstract

The study involved a thematic analysis of montage paintings and of related clinical records of 240 active-duty military service members collected during their art therapy treatment for traumatic brain injury (TBI) and underlying psychological health concerns, including post-traumatic stress, at the National Intrepid Center of Excellence, Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, Bethesda, MD. Congruent with other research findings, the qualitative analyses of this study suggest that the group art therapy experiences fostered improvement in interpersonal relatedness, hopefulness and gratification for the service members in treatment aiding in externalization, progressive exposure and construction of a trauma narrative imperative for recovery. The mixed media nature of the montage painting supported the expression of a range of post-combat symptoms. Results from this study highlighted the complexity of military culture, necessitating a broader scope of analyses for how art therapy helps service members express and communicate their challenges to care providers, peers, and family as well as regulate emotion in the short and long term.

Population Studied

Service members in art therapy treatment at the National Intrepid Center of Excellence (NICoE); N=240

Treatment

Art therapy; integrated medicine; standalone treatment; group art therapy sessions in week four of 4-week program

Study Design

Grounded theory thematic analysis of content in montage painting and clinical notes created by art therapist

Measures

Images and clinical notes

Art therapy with military families: The animal strengths and family environment directive

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0197455623000230>

Authors

Herman, J. and Chilton, G.

Publication Date

2023

Publisher

The Arts in Psychotherapy; Impact Factor 1.847

Volume/Issue/Pages

83(Available online 11 March 2023), 1-8

Abstract

Military families are resilient but are impacted by service member's deployments, combat exposure, injuries, and other stressors such as frequent moves. These factors affect the entire family, and in turn family dynamics influence injured service members' capacity to heal. Art therapy is a regulated mental health profession that incorporates the use of visual art to address psychological and rehabilitation treatment goals provided by qualified art therapists and has been used with military families in health settings for over 70 years. Through art therapy, military families can find new ways to communicate with one another in developmentally appropriate ways. This article describes the process of the Animal Strengths and Family Environment (ASFE), an art therapy directive designed to meet the needs of families of service members recovering from effects of traumatic brain injuries (TBI) and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Case vignettes are presented illustrating the use of the ASFE, describing how two military families identified character strengths through animal metaphors, and created visual artwork to discover and express these strengths, roles, and needs. The authors contend that this process is useful in mapping family dynamics to increase communication which ultimately fosters family resiliency. Continued research is needed to better understand possible outcomes of art therapy directives with military families.

Population Studied

Families of service members recovering from effects of traumatic brain injuries (TBI) and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD)

Treatment

Art therapy

Study Design

Case vignettes

Measures

Animal Strengths and Family Environment (ASFE), an art therapy directive

Art Therapy for Military Service Members with Post-Traumatic Stress and Traumatic Brain Injury: Three Case Reports Highlighting Trajectories of Treatment and Recovery

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0197455618301540>

Authors

Jones, J.P., Drass, J.M., & Kaimal, G.

Publication Date

2019

Publisher

The Arts in Psychotherapy (Impact factor = 1.404)

Volume/Issue/Pages

63(Available online 02 May 2019), 18 - 30

Abstract

Advances in both military and medical technology have led to decreased mortality rates among military service personnel in the United States, yet have led to an increase in occurrences of traumatic brain injuries and posttraumatic stress disorder in military service personnel, often resulting in prolonged unresolved symptoms. The purpose of this article is to illustrate the implementation and effects of an art therapy program on military service personnel attending an outpatient military treatment facility. To this end, we present case reports of three military service personnel diagnosed with comorbid traumatic brain injury and post-traumatic stress and describe their participation in the art therapy program at Intrepid Spirit One, the National Intrepid Center of Excellence satellite site at Fort Belvoir Community Hospital. Through discussion of the therapist's subjective observations, as well as the patients' visual art productions and their personal verbal and written reflections on their experiences in art therapy and, eventually, on community art programs, this article highlights how art therapy was used to treat military trauma as part of a comprehensive integrative treatment program. The cases highlight how participation in a long-term, stage-based, structured art therapy program (through both group and individual sessions), enabled military service personnel to identify and articulate the complexity of their lingering trauma symptoms, fostering improvement in their communication with

other treatment providers and loved ones, which, in turn, led to improvements in their overall quality of life.

Population Studied

Active-duty service members with TBI and PTS in art therapy treatment in a comprehensive integrated outpatient care setting; N=3

Treatment

Art therapy; integrated medicine

Study Design

Case summaries

Measures

The Diagnostic Drawing Series; Graphic Narrative; Intensive Trauma Therapy; Signature Strengths Tes

Art therapy interventions for active-duty service members with post-traumatic stress disorder and traumatic brain injury

<https://arts.legislature.ca.gov/sites/arts.legislature.ca.gov/files/REPORT%20%231%20Art%20therapy%20interventions%20post%20traumatic%20stress.pdf>

Authors

Jones, J.P., Walker, M.S., Drass, J.M., & Kaimal, G.

Publication Date

2018

Publisher

International Journal of Art Therapy (Impact factor = 1.667)

Volume/Issue/Pages

23(2), 70-85

Abstract

This paper provides an overview of short and long-term art therapy treatment approaches, used in the USA, for military service members with post-traumatic stress disorder and traumatic brain injury. The described clinical approaches are based on the theoretical foundations and the art therapists' experiences in providing individualized care for the unique needs of the patient population. The art therapy models and directives are designed to be more therapist-led in the short-term model, moving on to an increasingly patient-led format in the long-term treatment model. The overall objectives of art therapy are to support identity integration, externalization, and authentic self-expression; to promote group cohesion; and to process grief, loss, and trauma. In addition, programme evaluation is used in both settings as a means to understand participants' experiences and the perceived value of art therapy.

Population Studied

Military service members with TBI and PTS

Treatment

Art therapy; integrated medicine; standalone treatment

Study Design

Clinical practice paper

Measures

Description of art therapy clinical practice and use of evaluation in two setting

Evaluation of Long- and Short-Term Art Therapy Interventions in an Integrative Care Setting for Military Service Members with Post-Traumatic Stress and Traumatic Brain Injury

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0197455618301321>

Authors

Kaimal, G., Jones, J.P., Dieterich-Hartwell, R.M., Acharya, B., & Wang, X.

Publication Date

2019

Publisher

The Arts in Psychotherapy (Impact factor = 1.404)

Volume/Issue/Pages

62(Available online 29 October 2018), 28-36

Abstract

Background: Program evaluations can serve as a doorway to research in the creative arts therapies. This study provides findings from analyses of participant feedback on short- and long-term art therapy services for military service members with post-traumatic stress and traumatic brain injury (TBI). Methods: Data for the study included feedback surveys from 204 service members who received art therapy services as part of treatment at an integrative care setting. Results: The results indicate that long-term art therapy resulted in higher satisfaction with treatment. Art therapy helped most with developing a sense of self after injury, experiencing positive emotions, processing trauma, and reducing feelings of guilt, grief, and loss. There were no statistically significant differences in outcomes based on rank or severity of TBI, but art therapy services were found to be related to improved symptoms for service members with longer times in service. Implications: The feedback from evaluation helps identify potential areas for further research on how art therapy addresses issues of identity, time in service and experiences of emotions as a result of post-traumatic stress and TBI. Evaluation provides directions for further clinical treatment and yields data on improving quality of care.

Population Studied

Active-duty military service members with TBI and PTS; N=204

Treatment

Art therapy; integrated medicine

Study Design

Program evaluation, mixed methods

Measures

Evaluation of long-term art therapy clinical practice

Long-Term Art Therapy Clinical Interventions with Military Service Members with Traumatic Brain Injury and Post-Traumatic Stress: Findings from a Mixed Methods Program Evaluation Study

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC10013461/>

Authors

Kaimal, G., Jones, J.P., Dieterich-Hartwell, R.M., & Wang, X.

Publication Date

2020

Publisher

Military Psychology (Impact factor = 1.36)

Volume/Issue/Pages

33(1), 29-40

Abstract

Art therapy has been found to help veterans with symptoms of post-traumatic stress. There is however limited scholarship on the differences in outcomes based on dosage (short-term vs. long-term treatment) especially for active duty military service members (SMs). This mixed methods program evaluation study examined feedback from SMs on their experiences of art therapy in an integrative medical care center after 3 weeks of group therapy and at the end of treatment (average time of 2 years). Data included participant demographics, feedback surveys and narrative responses from SMs experiences of art therapy. The results indicate that longer-term art therapy resulted in improved perceived outcomes compared with the short-term 3-week intervention. SMs with longer time in service reported the most improved self-reported outcomes. Women SMs expressed more positive emotions during their art making. Specific themes that were effectively addressed through art therapy included frustration tolerance, grief and loss, emotion regulation, personal insight, resiliency, and trauma processing. SMs also highlighted the unique and transformative role of the relationship with the therapist in alleviation of symptoms. The findings suggest benefits to long-term art therapy including improved ability in SMs to be aware of their symptoms and communicate effectively with

others.

Population Studied

Service members in treatment at an integrative medical care center

Treatment

Art therapy in an integrative medical care center after 3 weeks of group therapy

Study Design

Mixed methods program evaluation study

Measures

Participant demographics, feedback surveys and narrative responses from SMs experiences of art therapy

Examining Associations Between Montage Painting Imagery and Symptoms of Depression and Posttraumatic Stress Among Active-Duty Military Service Members

<https://psycnet.apa.org/fulltext/2020-40994-001.html>

Authors

Kaimal, G., Walker, M. S., Berberian, M. G., Herres, J.M., & DeGraba, T.M.

Publication Date

2020

Publisher

Psychology of Aesthetics, Creativity, and the Arts (Impact factor = 4.224)

Volume/Issue/Pages

16(1), 16-29

Abstract

Art therapy has traditionally been used as a treatment approach, but it can also be applied successfully as a clinical behavioral health assessment tool in the care of military service members suffering from the effects of traumatic brain injury (TBI) and operational stressors. This observational study examined patterns of associations between visual imagery (mask and montage paintings) and clinical symptoms among 240 active-duty military service members with TBI and associated psychological health conditions to include posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD). The service members had participated in a 4-week intensive outpatient assessment and treatment program at the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in the United States. Themes seen in the visual imagery were examined in correlation with standardized measures of PTSD (Posttraumatic Stress Disorder Checklist: Military Version) and depressive symptoms (Patient Health Questionnaire-9). The analysis showed that certain themes, like the use of color symbolism to depict psychological states, were associated with greater PTSD and depressive symptoms at the beginning of the program. In addition, patients who depicted themes like physical injury, psychological injury, and memories of deployment in Week 1 of the program were more likely to continue to represent them in Week 4. Depiction of themes like color metaphors and duality

was associated with lower depressive symptoms at the end of the program. The findings indicate the potential clinical and prognostic value of tracking the content of visual imagery created by military service members with TBI and associated psychological health conditions. Clinical applications include the recognition that certain visual themes could indicate higher or lower levels of distress and may help guide targeted care.

Population Studied

Military service members with TBI and PTS; N=240

Treatment

Art therapy; integrated medicine

Study Design

Observational study

Measures

The scales for posttraumatic stress and depression, the PTSD Checklist (PCL) for the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders-Fifth Edition (DSM-5) and the Patient Health Questionnaire-9

Observational Associations Between Visual Imagery and Measures of Depression, Anxiety, and Post-Traumatic Stress Among Active-Duty Military Service Members with Traumatic Brain Injury at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/29895656/>

Authors

Kaimal, G., Walker, M. S., Herres, J., French, L.M., & DeGraba, T. J.

Publication Date

2018

Publisher

BMJ Open (Impact factor = 2.692)

Volume/Issue/Pages

8(6), 1-9

Abstract

Objectives: To compare recurring themes in the artistic expression of SMs with PTSD, TBI, and PH conditions with measurable psychiatric diagnoses. Affective symptoms and struggles related to verbally expressing information can limit communication in individuals with post-traumatic stress symptoms and deployment-related health conditions. Visual self-expression through art therapy is an alternative way for military service members (SMs) with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and other psychological health (PH) conditions to communicate their lived experiences. This study offers the first systematic examination of associations between visual self-expression and how it relates to standardized clinical self-report measures. **Primary Outcomes:** Associations between scores on the PTSD Checklist-Military (PCL-M), the Patient Health Questionnaire-9, and the Generalized Anxiety Disorder 7-item scale on visual themes in depictions of aspects of individual identity (psychological injury, military symbols, military identity, and visual metaphors). **Results:** Comparisons of the visual and clinical data indicate that SMs who depicted psychological injury also had higher scores for post-traumatic stress and depression. However, the depiction of military unit identity, nature metaphors, sociocultural metaphors, and cultural and historical characters was associated with lower

post-traumatic stress, depression, and anxiety scores. Similarly, the use of color-related symbolism and fragmented military symbols was associated with higher anxiety, depression, and post-traumatic stress scores. Conclusions: There are emergent patterns of resilience and risk embedded in the use of images created by the participants, which in turn could provide valuable information for patients, clinicians, and caregivers serving this population. Active duty military service members with a history of TBI, PTS, and related psychological health conditions receiving treatment at the National Intrepid Center of Excellence (NICoE).

Population Studied

N=370

Treatment

Art therapy; integrated medicine; standalone treatment.

Study Design

The images used for analysis were created by the SMs in the form of masks during art therapy sessions in week 1 of a 4-week integrative treatment program.

Measures

ANCOVA and correlational analysis of data on clinical symptoms of posttraumatic stress

Using Human and Computer-Based text Analysis of Clinical Notes to Understand Military Service Members' Experiences with Therapeutic Writing

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0197455618301370?via%3Dihub>

Authors

Landless, B.M., Walker, M.S., & Kaimal, G.

Publication Date

2018

Publisher

The Arts in Psychotherapy (Impact factor = 1.404)

Volume/Issue/Pages

62(5), 77-84

Abstract

Background: Therapeutic writing interventions have been shown to improve both physical health and emotional well-being. This brief report examines the usefulness of clinical notes as a data source and presents two different analyses of individual clinical notes of therapeutic writing group sessions: analysis performed by a person and analysis by a computer-based program (Pennebaker, Booth, Boyd & Francis, 2015). Method: The therapeutic writing sessions were offered during the second week of treatment at the National Intrepid Center of Excellence (NICoE) as part of an integrative care model for service members (SMs) with TBI and PTS. The sessions were documented in the military healthcare system's patient record application by the art therapist and art therapy interns at the NICoE. Clinical notes were informed by SM self-report surveys and clinician observations. Notes from May 2012 to 2015 and were pulled and coded manually for emerging themes, then separately analyzed by a computer software text content analysis program (Pennebaker et al., 2015). Results: Overall, SMs reported more positive than negative, neutral, or mixed emotions during and after the therapeutic writing experience. Some reported a change from negative to positive emotions through the writing process, and many described experiencing relief during and after sessions. SMs wrote on a wide range of topics. Most SMs kept their writing pieces, although some destroyed them or shared them with others, and a few SMs gifted the pieces. Computerized-based analysis (Pennebaker et al., 2015)

indicated that work and social were the most prominent content theme areas. It also showed that positive emotions were more evident than negative emotions in the clinical notes and that the focus of the notes was primarily on the present rather than on the past or the future. Implications: Many SMs perceived the therapeutic writing experience as therapeutic, a relevant coping skill, and enjoyable. Some, however, preferred to work on art therapy projects they had begun in previous sessions (such as mask-making) during the writing sessions. The computer-based analysis of the clinical notes took much less time than the human analysis, but it did not produce results of comparable richness or nuance. Computer-based analysis of the actual therapeutic writing pieces may provide deeper insights into the content and themes that emerged during this therapeutic intervention.

Population Studied

Service members with TBI and/or PTS at the National Intrepid Center of Excellence (NICoE)

Treatment

N=200

Study Design

Therapeutic/expressive writing; integrated medicine; standalone treatment

Measures

Qualitative (thematic analysis)

A Case Analysis of Service Member Trauma Processing Related to Art Therapy within a Military-Intensive Outpatient Program

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7496439/>

Authors

Maltz, B., Hoyt, T., Uomoto, J., & Herodes, M.

Publication Date

2020

Publisher

Journal of Clinical Psychology (Impact factor = 2.885)

Volume/Issue/Pages

76(9):1575-1590

Abstract

Objectives: Art therapy has been widely used in clinical settings and has shown preliminary success in military trauma. This case study describes a mask-making art therapy directive facilitated by a board-certified art therapist as an adjunct to group posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) treatment in a military intensive outpatient program. **Methods:** Described are clinical outcome measures, linguistic analysis of a personal journal, evaluation of this servicemember's artwork, and experiences in the program. **Results:** Mask-making, as a trauma-focused group art therapy directive, expanded the understanding of treatment progress reflected in journal notes, mask imagery, and by a change in linguistic indices of trauma processing, despite an overall increase in PTSD symptoms as he confronted his traumatic experiences. He reported improvement in coping and successfully returned to full military duty following treatment. **Conclusions:** This case study suggests that art therapy and written narrative, combined with standardized self-report assessments, may more accurately indicate improvement in overall PTSD treatment.

Population Studied

Active-duty Navy Senior Chief Petty Officer; N=1

Treatment

Two sequential courses of intensive outpatient group-based treatment

Study Design

Qualitative (case study)

Measures

Clinical notes, BASIS-24, Behavior and Symptom Identification Scale-24 Overall Score; PCL-

Increased Functional Connectivity in Military Service Members Presenting a Psychological Closure and Healing Theme in Art Therapy Masks

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0197455623000576?via%3Dihub>

Authors

Payano Sosa, J., Srikanchana, R., Walker, M., Stamper, A., King, J., Olinger, J., Bonavia, G., Workman, C., Darda, K., Chatterjee, A. & Sours Rhodes, C.

Publication Date

2023

Publisher

The Arts in Psychotherapy; Impact Factor 1.847

Volume/Issue/Pages

85(3), Available online 13 June 2023

Abstract

Military service members (SMs) have an increased risk of developing posttraumatic stress symptoms. Art therapy is a promising intervention that allows SMs with posttraumatic stress to explore their trauma through art-making and reflection in a psychotherapeutic relationship. Thematic analysis of art products may lend itself as a description of visual indicators of an internal state of the brain. We hypothesized that specific neurobiological markers are associated with the theme of psychological closure and/or healing of traumatic memories as represented in the masks created during art therapy. Resting state fMRIs of a convenience sample of 104 SMs who received art therapy as part of the interdisciplinary Intensive Outpatient Program (IOP) at the National Intrepid Center of Excellence were examined. SMs depicting psychological closure and/or healing within their art therapy masks demonstrated greater resting state functional connectivity between regions associated with attention, memory, language, and pain processing. These findings are preliminary in nature therefore causal relationships cannot be assumed between art therapy and neuroimaging metrics, as both art therapy and neuroimaging measures were collected as part of a larger integrative IOP. Future work collecting neuroimaging metrics pre and post an art therapy intervention is warranted to further evaluate these

associations.

Population Studied

Military service members

Treatment

Masks created during art therapy.

Study Design

Retrospective data analysis

Measures

Self-report assessments for traumatic brain injury (TBI) and posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD), thematic analysis of art products and neuroimaging metrics - resting state fMRI

Active-Duty Military Service Members' Visual Representations of PTSD and TBI in Masks

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5328376/>

Authors

Walker, M.S., Kaimal, G., Gonzaga, A.M. L., Myers-Coffman, K.A., & DeGraba, T.J .

Publication Date

2017

Publisher

International Journal of Qualitative Studies on Health and Well-being (Impact factor = 1.947)

Volume/Issue/Pages

12(1), 1-12

Abstract

Active-duty military service members have a significant risk of sustaining physical and psychological trauma resulting in traumatic brain injury (TBI) and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Within an interdisciplinary treatment approach at the National Intrepid Center of Excellence, service members participated in mask making during art therapy sessions. This study presents an analysis of the mask-making experiences of service members (n=370) with persistent symptoms from combat- and mission-related TBI, PTSD, and other concurrent mood issues. Data sources included mask images and therapist notes collected over a five-year period. The data were coded and analyzed using grounded theory methods. Findings indicated that mask making offered visual representations of the self-related to individual personhood, relationships, community, and society. Imagery themes referenced the injury, relational supports/ losses, identity transitions/questions, cultural metaphors, existential reflections, and conflicted sense of self. These visual insights provided an increased understanding of the experiences of service members, facilitating their recovery.

Population Studied

Active-duty service members; N=370

Treatment

Art therapy; integrated medicine; standalone treatment; group art therapy sessions in week 1 of 4-week program medicine

Study Design

Grounded theory thematic analysis of content in masks and clinical notes created by art therapist

Measures

Images and clinical notes

Art Therapy for PTSD and TBI: A Senior Active Duty Military Service Member's Therapeutic Journey

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0197455616300636?via%3Dihub>

Authors

Walker, M. S., Kaimal, G., Koffman, R., & DeGraba, T. J.

Publication Date

2016

Publisher

The Arts in Psychotherapy (Impact factor = 1.404)

Volume/Issue/Pages

49(2), 10-16

Abstract

Art therapy is increasingly being accepted as a form of complementary and integrative care for military veterans affected by trauma and injuries in the line of duty. Less is known, however, about the applications of art therapy for co-morbid traumatic brain injury (TBI) and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). In addition, most studies to date have focused on art therapy with veterans (former military service members) rather than with active-duty service members. Furthermore, there are no studies that have examined the unique context of PTSD in senior military personnel. This case study presents the therapeutic process through art therapy in the case of a senior active-duty military service member (with chronic PTSD and TBI) in the context of an integrated model of care that included medical and complementary therapies.

Population Studied

Senior active-duty military service member; N=1

Treatment

Art therapy; integrated medicine, standalone treatment: The patient underwent a series of treatments,

including complementary and integrative therapies, and medical and psychiatric care

Study Design

Case study

Measures

Images and clinical notes

Art Therapy and Underlying fMRI Brain Patterns in Military TBI: A Case Series

<https://psycnet.apa.org/record/2018-32606-001>

Authors

Walker, M.S., Stamper, A. M., Nathan, D. E., & Riedy, G.

Publication Date

2018

Publisher

International Journal of Art Therapy (Impact factor = 1.667)

Volume/Issue/Pages

23(4), 180-187

Abstract

TBI and PTSD are global issues and are often referred to as signature wounds of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars. Art therapy can provide unique insights into military service members' injuries and states of mind via externalization within an art product; however, interpretation of results is complex and subjective. Advance neuroimaging tools such as resting state fMRI can be employed to demonstrate objective measures of brain structure and activity. This case series highlights two distinct patient profiles, suggesting a relationship between resting state connectivity maps and dynamic thalamic connectivity (as well as PCL-C and NSI scores and brain scars) and the corresponding visual elements of masks made during art therapy treatment. Ultimately, this study indicates a need for future research examining potential neurological changes pre- and post-art therapy treatment.

Population Studied

Service members in treatment at the National Intrepid Center of Excellence (NICoE); N=10

Treatment

Art therapy; integrated medicine; standalone treatment; group art therapy sessions in week 1 of 4-week NICOE program; neuroimaging

Study Design

Case series; between-group comparisons of data on clinical symptoms, neuroimaging

Measures

Visual themes in masks and correlational analysis

Art Therapy Masks Reflect Emotional Changes in Military Personnel with PTSS

<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41598-024-57128-5>

Authors

Estrada Gonzalez, V., Meletaki, V., Walker, M., Payano Sosa, J., Stamper, A., Srikanchana, R., ... & Chatterjee, A.

Publication Date

2024

Publisher

Scientific Reports (Impact Factor = 3.8)

Volume/Issue/Pages

14(1), 7192

Abstract

Among disabling post-traumatic stress symptoms (PTSS) are irritability, aggressive behavior, distressing memories and general impaired cognition and negative mood. Art therapy interventions, including mask-making, can potentially alleviate these symptoms. We tested the hypothesis that art conveys emotions and predicted that blinded viewers would be able to perceive changes in theoretically derived emotional profiles expressed in art made by military personnel with PTSS from the onset to the end of therapy. Five service members and veterans exhibiting PTSS were enrolled in an 8-session art therapy protocol, during which they artistically transformed papier-mâché masks at the beginning and end of the protocol. We found that blinded viewers without knowledge of the masks' creation stage (onset or end of therapy) read initial masks as conveying more negative emotions (e.g., angry, upset, and challenged) and later masks as conveying more positive emotions (calm and pleasure). Based on the assessments from the blinded evaluators, we infer the emotional transition experienced by the participants was expressed in the masks. In an exploratory arm of the study, we also found that viewers were better able to empathize with the negative emotions experienced by participants with PTSS when asked to explicitly take their perspective.

Population Studied

Masks created by service members and veterans who have experienced post-traumatic stress symptoms in treatment at the National Intrepid Center of Excellence (NICoE), N = 5; independent reviewers of masks produced during art therapy.

Treatment

N/A

Study Design

Comparison of cognitive and emotional impacts depicted in masks constructed during the initial phases of therapy versus in the final stages of therapy.

Measures

Ratings of impact terms reduced to four categories impact terms: positive emotions, negative emotions, motivation/immersion, epistemic transformation

A Conceptual Framework for a Neurophysiological Basis of Art Therapy for PTSD

<https://www.frontiersin.org/journals/human-neuroscience/articles/10.3389/fnhum.2024.1351757/full>

Authors

Malhotra, B., Jones, L. C., Spooner, H., Levy, C., Kaimal, G., & Williamson, J. B.

Publication Date

2024

Publisher

Frontiers in Human Neuroscience (Impact Factor = 2.4)

Volume/Issue/Pages

18, 1351757.

Abstract

Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) is a heterogeneous condition that affects many civilians and military service members. Lack of engagement, high dropout rate, and variable response to psychotherapy necessitates more compelling and accessible treatment options that are based on sound neuroscientific evidence-informed decision-making. Art therapy incorporates elements proven to be effective in psychotherapy, such as exposure, making it a potentially valuable treatment option. This conceptual paper aims to inform the neurophysiological rationale for the use of art therapy as a therapeutic approach for individuals with PTSD. A narrative synthesis was conducted using literature review of empirical research on the neurophysiological effects of art therapy, with supporting literature on neuroaesthetics and psychotherapies to identify art therapy factors most pertinent for PTSD. Findings were synthesized through a proposed framework based on the triple network model considering the network-based dysfunctions due to PTSD. Art therapy's active components, such as concretization and metaphor, active art engagement, emotion processing and regulation, perspective taking and reframing, and therapeutic alliance, may improve symptoms of PTSD and prompt adaptive brain functioning. Given the scarcity of rigorous studies on art therapy's effectiveness and mechanisms of alleviating PTSD symptoms, the suggested framework offers a neurophysiological

rationale and a future research agenda to investigate the impact of art therapy as a therapeutic approach for individuals with PTSD.

Population Studied

N/A

Treatment

N/A

Study Design

Narrative synthesis of the literature

Measures

N/A

Exploring the Evocative Qualities of Masks' Visual Imagery and their Associations with Adversity and Trauma

<https://www.frontiersin.org/journals/psychology/articles/10.3389/fpsyg.2024.1337927/full>

Authors

Arslanbek, A., Malhotra, B., Stickley, K. S., Herres, J., Spooner, H., Lamb, D. G., ... & Kaimal, G.

Publication Date

2024

Publisher

Frontiers in Psychology (Impact Factor = 2.6)

Volume/Issue/Pages

15, 1337927.

Abstract

Introduction: Studies suggest a relationship between the emotional evocativeness of visual imagery and viewer responses, however, there is limited understanding of these associations, especially as they relate to viewers' personal experiences of adversities.

Methods: In this exploratory study, we examined the relationship between the visual content of mask images and viewers' responses. In an online survey 699 participants (of n = 1,010 total initial participants) rated 98 masks based on valence, arousal, and personal relevance and completed the Life Events Checklist. The masks included those created by service members (SMs) with traumatic brain injury (TBI), and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), depicting physical, psychological, and moral injuries and matched neutral masks created by creative arts therapists and arts in health scholars.

Findings: The findings indicated that responses to mask image content (traumatic versus neutral) were associated with viewers' personal history of adversity and trauma. Specifically, images representing injury/trauma provoked stronger reactions on valence and arousal than neutral images. Moreover, participants with personal histories of trauma had heightened emotional responses to distressing imagery.

Discussion: These findings have implications for art therapists as well as for clinical and general populations in that these results highlight the potential impact of distressing imagery particularly for individuals with personal histories of experiencing or witnessing traumatic events.

Population Studied

Online survey with N=699 participants.

Treatment

N/A

Study Design

Ratings of 98 masks created by service members with combined traumatic brain injury and posttraumatic stress disorder.

Measures

Life Events Checklist; Masks were rated for valence, arousal, and personal relevance on the Adapted Self-Assessment Manikan

Songs Created by Military Service Members in Music Therapy: A Retrospective Analysis

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0197455618301916>

Authors

Bradt, J., Biondo, J., & Vaudreuil, R.

Publication Date

2019

Publisher

The Arts in Psychotherapy (Impact factor = 1.404)

Volume/Issue/Pages

62(Available online 17 November 2018), 19-27

Abstract

A successful transition to civilian life is challenging for many service members returning from deployment. Psychological and physical injuries may hamper successful reintegration into home life and communities and, as a result, many service members report feeling lonely, isolated and misunderstood. This study analyzed 14 songs written by 11 active-duty service members with post-traumatic stress disorder, mild traumatic brain injury, and psychological health conditions, who received music therapy services at the National Intrepid Center of Excellence, a Directorate of Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in the United States of America. Service members wrote songs over the course of two or more individual music therapy sessions. Latent thematic analysis of the song lyrics yielded four main themes: (a) personal struggles and barriers to recovery, (b) moving forward, (c) relational challenges, and (d) positive relationships and support. The songs offer a window into service members' lived experiences of military service, injury, recovery, homecoming, and transition from active-duty. Songwriting enabled service members to share their thoughts, emotions, fears, and hopes with family, friends, and other providers, often for the first time, and as such played an important role in their personal growth and recovery process. This is the first study to examine the therapeutic benefits of songwriting in a military population.

Population Studied

Active-duty service members in music therapy treatment at NICoE; N=11

Treatment

Music therapy standalone; each patient who wrote a song in music therapy received at least 2-3 individual music therapy sessions to complete songwriting/recording projects

Study Design

Thematic analysis and correlational analyses

Measures

Thematic analysis of songs written by service members and clinical notes of the songwriting sessions to support examination of associations between identified themes and patient clinical and demographic characteristic

Music Therapy Treatment of Active Duty Military: An Overview of Intensive Outpatient and Longitudinal Care Programs

<https://academic.oup.com/mtp/article/36/2/195/4945362>

Authors

Bronson, H., Vaudreuil, R., & Bradt, J.

Publication Date

2018

Publisher

Music Therapy Perspectives (Impact factor = 0.82)

Volume/Issue/Pages

36(2), 195-206

Abstract

In recent years, there has been increased demand for music therapy services within military treatment facilities to treat combat-related injuries. This demand is partly due to increased research output related to music interventions in neuro-rehabilitation as well as an increased prevalence of signature injuries including traumatic brain injury and posttraumatic stress disorder for which interdisciplinary patient-centered care is recommended. The complexity of traumatic brain injury, posttraumatic stress, and military service itself presents challenges for music therapist when creating patient-centered program models. As military healthcare increases access to new treatments as a standard of care, it is important for music therapists to provide descriptions of effective treatment models in military settings. Outlining established music therapy models of care is essential to the successful addition of music therapy in the treatment of service members' complex injuries. This paper outlines current program models at two facilities, the National Intrepid Center of Excellence at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center and Intrepid Spirit Center at Fort Belvoir.

Population Studied

Walter Reed National Military Medical Center and Intrepid Spirit Center at Fort Belvoir.

Treatment

Military service members

Study Design

Music therapy; integrated medicine; standalone treatment

Measures

Clinical practice paper: Description of clinical practice

Music Therapy with Military Populations: A Scoping Review

<https://academic.oup.com/jmt/article/56/4/315/5614310?login=false>

Authors

Gooding, L.F. & Langston, D.G.

Publication Date

2019

Publisher

Journal of Music Therapy (Impact factor = 1.742)

Volume/Issue/Pages

56(4),315-347

Abstract

Music therapy treatment is increasingly being used to promote health, enhance quality of life, and improve functioning in military personnel, but evidence on the use of music interventions with military service members is still emerging. The purpose of this scoping review was to synthesize the available literature regarding music therapy treatment with military personnel by identifying the types of information available, key characteristics, and gaps in the knowledge base. The review was completed using the methodological framework proposed by Arksey and O'Malley. A total of 27 publications met the criteria for review. The results included anecdotal reports, white papers/ briefs, case studies, historical reviews, clinical program descriptions, and research studies. Both active duty and veteran service members were represented in the literature, and post-traumatic stress disorder and traumatic brain injury were the most commonly listed conditions among those served. Music therapy services were offered in both group and individual formats, and drumming was the most common music intervention cited. Most publications accurately represented music therapy, and the historical reviews highlighted the connection between the development of the field of music therapy and the use of music with military personnel. Several gaps were identified, including a lack of specificity in reporting, low levels of evidence, and limited inclusion of women service members.

Population Studied

Active duty and veteran service members

Treatment

Music therapy

Study Design

Scoping review of literature

Measures

Scoping review methodological framework proposed by Arksey and O'Malle

Feasibility and Acceptability of Music Imagery and Listening Interventions for Analgesia: Protocol for a Randomized Controlled Trial

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC9539652/>

Authors

Story, K., Bravata, D., Robb, S., Wasmuth, S., Slaven, J., Whitmire, L., Barker, B. , Menen, T., and Bair, M.

Publication Date

2022

Publisher

Journal of Medical Internet Research (JMIR) Protocols; Impact Factor 7.077

Volume/Issue/Pages

11(9), Available online 22 September 2022

Abstract

Chronic pain and access to care are identified as critical needs of the Veterans Health Administration. Music imagery and music listening interventions have shown promise as effective nonpharmacological options for pain management. However, most studies have focused on acute pain, passive music experiences, and in-person delivery. This study aimed to examine the feasibility and acceptability of 2 music interventions delivered through telehealth for chronic musculoskeletal pain, trial design, and theoretical model before conducting a fully powered efficacy or comparative effectiveness trial.

Population Studied

Veterans with chronic musculoskeletal pain

Treatment

Music therapy via telehealth

Study Design

3-arm, parallel group, pilot trial; 60 veterans randomized to one of the three conditions: music imagery, music listening, or usual care.

Measures

Qualitative interviews including perceived benefits, acceptability, barriers, and facilitators; effects of music imagery and music listening versus usual care on pain and associated patient-centered outcomes.

Music Therapy Applied to Complex Blast Injury in an Interdisciplinary Model: A Case Report

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/29688085/>

Authors

Vaudreuil, R., Avila, L., Bradt, J., & Pasquina, P.

Publication Date

2018

Publisher

The Journal of Disability and Rehabilitation (Impact factor = 3.033)

Volume/Issue/Pages

41(19), 2333-2342

Abstract

Purpose: Music therapy has a long history of treating the physiological, psychological, and neurological injuries of war. Recently, there has been an increase in the use of music therapy and other creative arts therapies in the care of combat injured service members returning to the United States from Iraq and Afghanistan, especially those with complex blast-related injuries. This case report describes the role of music therapy in the interdisciplinary rehabilitation of a severely injured service member. Methods: Music therapy was provided as stand-alone treatment and in co-treatment with speech language pathology, physical therapy, and occupational therapy. The report is based on clinical notes, self-reports by the patient and his wife, and interviews with rehabilitation team members. Results: In collaboration with other treatment disciplines, music therapy contributed to improvements in range of motion, functional use of bilateral upper extremities, strength endurance, breath support, articulation, task-attention, compensatory strategies, social integration, quality of life, and overall motivation in the recovery process. The inclusion of music therapy in rehabilitation was highly valued by the patient, his family, and the treatment team. Conclusions: Music therapy has optimized the rehabilitation of a service member through assisting the recovery process on a continuum from clinic to community.

Population Studied

Military service member in ongoing rehabilitation from complex blast injury; N=1

Treatment

Music therapy; integrated medicine, standalone treatment; the patient received ongoing treatment, including 2+ years of integrated and stand-alone music therapy services

Study Design

Case report

Measures

Clinical data, self-reports by patient and family, interviews with rehabilitation team members

Music Therapy with Active-Duty Service Members: Group Protocol Description and Secondary Analysis of Protocol Evaluations

<https://academic.oup.com/mtp/article/38/2/167/5813537>

Authors

Vaudreuil, R., Biondo, J., & Bradt, J.

Publication Date

2020

Publisher

Music Therapy Perspectives (Impact factor = 0.82)

Volume/Issue/Pages

38(2), 167-177

Abstract

Based on the growing need for music therapy programming at military treatment facilities and clinics that specialize in the rehabilitation of service members, this article describes a music therapy group protocol and the findings of 201 post-session evaluations. In addition, we present clinical perspectives and recommendations from three music therapists who have facilitated this group protocol on four military bases across the United States. The group session outlined in the protocol is intended as an introduction to music therapy. It familiarizes service members to various music therapy experiences structured specifically to enhance feelings of safety during emotional risk-taking. In addition, the protocol functions as an initial assessment of service members' responses to the various receptive and interactive music experiences and includes psychoeducation regarding the role of music therapy in an interdisciplinary treatment model. The post-session evaluation data suggests that service members endorsed this introductory group as moderately to very helpful. Perceived benefits included the opportunity to express various emotions and increased awareness of somatic responses through music. A large number of requests for continued music therapy services following the introductory session suggest that the protocol is successful in facilitating understanding in service members regarding the potential treatment benefits of music therapy in an interdisciplinary care setting. Feedback from the music therapists indicated that the group protocol is a helpful initial experience for

service members to acclimate to music therapy, and for music therapists to learn about their patients' specific needs and inform subsequent treatment.

Population Studied

Active duty service members in music therapy treatment at NICoE; N=201

Treatment

Music therapy standalone; each patient received this session once; one year's worth of evaluations inclusive of January 1, 2016, through December 31, 2016

Study Design

Program evaluation

Measures

The Introduction to Music Therapy Group Session form, a self-report form included in the NEA evaluation toolkit

Bridging the Clinic to Community: Music Performance as Social Transformation for Military Service Members

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6370624/>

Authors

Vaudreuil, R., Bronson, H., & Bradt, J.

Publication Date

2019

Publisher

Frontiers in Psychology (Impact factor = 2.99)

Volume/Issue/Pages

10(Available online 05 February 2019), 1-6

Abstract

The use of musical performance in music therapy with active duty military service members is discussed as a vehicle for social transformation and re-integration. The use of musical performance in music therapy is not without controversy. Therapy is considered a process, not a product, and essential components of this therapeutic process are confidentiality and privacy. However, others have argued that public performances can validate therapeutic changes in clients, give voice to clients' experiences, raise awareness of social issues within their community, transform perceptions of disability or illness in audience members, and provide opportunities to receive support and validation from the community. We discuss the potential of musical performances to contribute to individual development and rehabilitation in active duty service members as well as facilitate change at the community level. We illustrate this through three brief case reports of active duty service members who received music therapy services at the National Intrepid Center of Excellence on base at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in the USA as part of their treatment of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, Traumatic Brain Injury, and other psychological health concerns. The service members selected, learned and refined songs over multiple music therapy sessions, created introductions to each song to share with the audience the meaning of each song and the benefits gained from working with these songs in therapy. The case reports also include excerpts of interviews conducted with these

service members several months following their performances about their experiences of the performances themselves and the perceived impact on the community.

Population Studied

Active duty service members in music therapy treatment at NICoE; N=2

Treatment

Music therapy standalone; at least two sessions with each patient

Study Design

Case report

Measures

Patient reports of song selection, symbolism, and performance experiences to enhance understanding of the impact of performance integrated into music therapy sessions and service member preparation for and participation in NICoE Creative Arts Cafe; Clinical commentary, patient interviews, documentation, performance observation

Implementing Music Therapy through Telehealth: Considerations for Military Populations

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/32608282/>

Authors

Vaudreuil, R., Langston, D. G., Magee, W. L., Betts, D. J., Kass, S., & Levy, C.

Publication Date

2020

Publisher

Disability and Rehabilitation: Assistive Technology (Impact factor = 2.099)

Volume/Issue/Pages

17(2), 201-210

Abstract

Telehealth provides access to psychotherapeutic interventions and psychoeducation for remote populations that may have limited access to in-person rehabilitation treatments. This paper explores the use of telehealth to facilitate music therapy with service members and veterans living in rural areas across the U.S. and reviews research regarding creative arts therapies delivered through telehealth. The existing evidence base is predominantly focused on art and dance movement therapies and includes little information about music therapy. However, music therapists have begun to use telehealth in clinical and community environments to increase access for remote patients. This article reports on the integration of telehealth and music therapy and presents facilitation techniques of didactic and applied clinical music experiences. This is accomplished through the review of current research, addressing knowledge gaps, and reviewing the evolving models of creative arts therapies delivered through telehealth for military populations.

Population Studied

Veterans who transferred from the National Intrepid Center of Excellence and were in treatment through the Malcom Randall VA in Gainesville, FL.

Treatment

Music therapy; telehealth; individual and group sessions

Study Design

Clinical practice paper with a focus on program development and program examples

Measures

Clinical observations, program review, program design, documentation, participant testimonials

Treatment Description and Case Series Report of A Phased Music Therapy Group to Support Veteran Reintegration

<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/08995605.2021.1962194>

Authors

Vetro-Kalseth, D., Vaudreuil, R. & Segall, L. E.

Publication Date

2021

Publisher

Military Psychology (Impact factor = 1.36)

Volume/Issue/Pages

33(6), 446-452

Abstract

Music therapy is becoming increasingly prevalent in rehabilitation programs serving military and Veteran populations in the United States. Music therapy is integrated into interdisciplinary models and positioned to treat brain injury, post-traumatic stress disorder, and other psychological health conditions at military installations and Veteran medical centers nationwide. Phased group music therapy is delivered in a longitudinal treatment model to assist in the rehabilitation of service members and Veterans. Different phases of group music therapy are aligned with a treatment trajectory that exists on a clinic to community continuum to support recovery and reintegration. This article provides a description and case presentations of clinical programming. Information was accessed from patients' electronic medical records, clinical documentation, therapist observation, and patient interviews. Interviews were transcribed and a content analysis was conducted by the authors. Emergent themes from the patient interviews included social relationships, community reintegration and transition, and post-military occupational success. Patients reported that group music therapy provided skill-building opportunities that were helpful for them during military service transitions, specifically active duty to Veteran status. Support skills included rapport-building and enhanced camaraderie. Furthermore, music therapy appeared to bolster peer connections through shared

experiences, which decreased isolation, increased socialization, and supported reintegration.

Population Studied

Three patients who engaged in phased MT group treatment during their transition from active duty to Veteran status

Treatment

The program follows a three-phase approach to care: (1) 6-week MT group series;(2) active music making/jam group; and (3) community engagement through musical performance.

Study Design

Clinical treatment description and case report series

Measures

Interviews

The Role of Technology in Music Therapy, Occupational Therapy, and Co-Treatment of an Injured United States Service Member

<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/pdf/10.1080/08098131.2024.2397795>

Authors

Vaudreuil, R., Nordstrom, M., DeGraba, T., & Pasquina, P.

Publication Date

2024

Publisher

Nordic Journal of Music Therapy (Impact Factor = 1.6)

Volume/Issue/Pages

2024, 1-18 (Open Access)

Abstract

Background: Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and traumatic brain injury (TBI) have negative consequences on the health, rehabilitation, and quality of life for many United States (U.S.) military personnel. Digital technologies offer opportunities for the co-treatment of music therapy and occupational therapy to enhance the rehabilitation of injured service members.

Objective: Case study to describe an interdisciplinary approach for comorbid symptoms of TBI and traumatic stress in an active duty service member. Both music therapy and occupational therapy approaches are highlighted.

Methods: Case description

Results: This intervention supported emotional state shifting from stress/anxiety to calm/regulated to stabilize their respiratory functioning and stress symptoms. Relaxation was further measured using heart rate variability (HRV) via biofeedback.

Conclusions: Music technology played an essential role in the co-treatment space. Active music-making through traditional instrumentation and music listening to unaltered recorded songs did not comprehensively address the patient's treatment goals. Combining a customized music listening tool, relaxation exercises, and HRV biofeedback demonstrated improvement in the service

member's physiological and psychological symptoms. Further investigation is needed to understand the impact of integrating digital music, health technologies, and a supportive co-treatment environment on rehabilitation success.

Population Studied

Active-duty US service member.

Treatment

Music therapy and occupational therapy

Study Design

Case Study

Measures

Ratings of a list of emotion (event-driven) and feeling (learned behaviors) pairs extracted from a study that explored emotional responses to music.

Creative Forces Programming with Military Families: Art Therapy, Dance Movement Therapy, and Music Therapy Brief Vignettes

<https://jmvfh.utpjournals.press/doi/full/10.3138/jmvfh-2021-0031>

Authors

Chilton, G., Vaudreuil, R., Freeman, E.K., McLaughlan, N., Herman, J., Cozza, S.J.

Publication Date

2021

Publisher

Journal of Military, Veteran and Family Health (Impact factor = 0.95)

Volume/Issue/Pages

7(3), 104-113

Abstract

Creative arts therapists (art therapists, dance/movement therapists, and music therapists) administer assessments and interventions that support the holistic well-being of military families affected by traumatic brain injury (TBI) and posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Clinical examples illustrate methods used by creative arts therapists to address the neurological, physiological, and psychosocial needs of service members and their families. Creative arts therapists describe areas of need, identify common goals, and present creative arts therapy interventions used with military families. Three vignettes detail the application of creative arts therapy interventions with families, couples, and parent/child dyads. Art therapy, dance/movement therapy, and music therapy interventions were applied in discipline-specific sessions to promote familial bonding. As a result of these sessions, families were better able to identify challenges and discover strengths, improve intra-familial interactions, and create deeper mutual understanding and connectedness, all of which strengthened family resilience and encouraged motivation in other areas of rehabilitation. Creative arts therapies are an integral part of interdisciplinary care to address behavioural and rehabilitative conditions of military families impacted by TBI and PTSD. Future research should examine the efficacy of creative arts therapies in improving resilience in military families.

Population Studied

Three case vignettes depict CATs sessions at two U.S. military installations that offer traditional outpatient services and intensive outpatient programming. An AT intervention with an extended family in outpatient programming is described, and a spousal DMT session is provided through an intensive outpatient program. MT is illustrated through a description of a parent-child dyad in the context of longitudinal outpatient treatment; N=3 case vignettes.

Treatment

The art therapy example describes the animal strengths and family environment directive; the dance/movement therapy session included psycho-education about autonomic nervous system regulation and how to shift internal states from arousal to calm; music therapy employed expressive and receptive interventions including (1) therapeutic singing, lyric analysis, songwriting, and music production assisted functional communication and memory recall, (2) music making pro-moted motor coordination and attention, and (3) music performance enhanced emotional expressivity and cognitive sequencing.

Study Design

Case vignettes

Measures

N/A

Using Distance Technology to Deliver the Creative Arts Therapies to Veterans: Case Studies in Art, Dance/Movement and Music Therapy

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0197455618301345>

Authors

Spooner, H., Lee, J.B., Langston, D. G., Sanke, J., Myers, K. J., & Levy, C.E.

Publication Date

2019

Publisher

The Arts in Psychotherapy (Impact factor = 1.404)

Volume/Issue/Pages

62(Available online 17 June 2019), 12-18

Abstract

Three case studies of veterans are presented who received either art therapy, dance/movement therapy or music therapy via in-home, synchronous clinical video telehealth through a VA medical center in the southeastern United States. As the use of distance technology becomes more widely implemented within healthcare, it becomes increasingly important for providers to receive adequate training and develop comfort and confidence in adapting their practices to distance delivery. Case studies are one way for creative arts therapists to conceptualize and demonstrate how their in-person practices can be adapted for distance delivery via telehealth.

Population Studied

A representative sample of veterans in the Rural Veterans' Telerehabilitation Initiative

Treatment

(RVTRI) CAT program; N=3

Study Design

One example was chosen from each of the disciplines offered at the medical center (art therapy, dance/movement therapy, music therapy). One veteran worked with two different providers in two different disciplines. In some cases, the individual creative arts therapists incorporated multimodal techniques. Examples of the integration of writing are specifically highlighted in the art therapy and dance/movement therapy case studies.

Measures

N/A

Creative Arts Therapies in Rehabilitation

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0003999324011274>

Authors

Levy, C. E., Uomoto, J. M., Betts, D., & Hoenig, H.

Publication Date

2024

Publisher

Archives of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation (Impact factor = 3.6)

Volume/Issue/Pages

Available online 21 July 2024, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.apmr.2024.07.008>

Abstract

Appreciation for the utility of creative arts therapy in rehabilitation is on the rise. The limitations of conventional approaches to address posttraumatic stress disorder and co-occurring traumatic brain injury is spurring the development and increased use of creative arts therapies, especially in US military health care systems. However, emerging applications of creative arts therapies in rehabilitation extend well beyond posttraumatic stress disorder/traumatic brain injury and military populations to span the continuum of care, from the intensive care unit, postoperative recovery unit, acute inpatient medical and surgical wards, outpatient clinics, and home health, as well as in traditional long-term care and psychiatric settings. Critical steps to more fully integrating creative arts therapies in rehabilitation include the following: (1) incorporation of education about creative arts therapies into the curricula across rehabilitation disciplines; (2) alteration of national and state policies to promote greater inclusion of creative arts therapies as reimbursable treatments for a wide array of clinical diagnoses and conditions; and (3) significant expansion of creative arts therapies' evidence base. This can be achieved by increasing funding levels to encourage rigorously designed and controlled studies to determine the efficacy, populations, diagnoses and conditions, cofactors, and the mechanisms of action of creative arts therapies. The time has come for a concentrated effort from the community of rehabilitation professional associations, advocacy organizations, and practitioners to promote the advancement and inclusion of creative arts therapies into appropriate clinical settings to

optimize outcomes for patients.

Population Studied

N/A

Treatment

N/A

Study Design

Editorial

Measures

N/A