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Crisis Intervention for schizophrenia - THE LEADERS GUIDE

Produced by the Editorial base of the Cochrane Schizophrenia Group
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from

Irving CB, Adams CE, Rice K. Crisis intervention for people with severe mental illnesses. Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews 2006, Issue 4. Art. No.: CD001087. DOI: 10.1002/14651858.CD001087.pub3.

Special points of interest:

- This should take no longer than 1 hour to prepare
- First time you undertake a journal club in this way it may be a bit nerve-wracking

but….

- It should be fun to conduct and attend
- It should begin and end on the practical day-to-day clinical situation

Inside this guide:

Background explanation

Thank you for giving this guide a go. The idea behind this is to make things easier for you when you lead the journal club.

Journal clubs are often difficult to conduct and far removed from clinical life. Even if the leaders do prepare well, those turning up may be more in need of lunch, coffee or a social time than practical academic stimulation and the implicit pressure to read a difficult paper.

This suggested design is an attempt to allow for those needs, whilst getting the very best out of the session.

This journal club design should really help those attending see that this research may have some clinical value.

What you will need to do is:

- ☑ Have a good read of this
- ☑ Then read the review to which this is attached.
- ☑ Distribute the review to those attending well before the club
- ☑ Make more copies for those turning up on spec
- ☑ Do not really expect many to have read the review

PRINTING GUIDE

Pages 1-4 - one copy for you

Pages 5-6 - one copy for each participant - distributed at **start** of journal club

Page 7– one copy for each participant distributed at **end** of journal club

Page 8 - one copy for you to collate feedback

Full review for everyone

Try to find a colour printer that does double sided printing

The three parts

Part 1. Set the clinical scene (5 mins)

Be clear, but really make the participants feel the pressure of the situation...just like you would in clinical life

Part 2. Critical appraisal of the review (20 mins)

Get participants to list what is needed from the review before consultants arrive, get them to talk, split into groups—with a feeling of urgency.

Part 3. Use of evidence in clinical life (20 mins)

Having distilled the evidence use role play to see how the participants would use what they have learned in everyday life.

Part 1.1 Setting the scene – the Consultants

Introduce participants in the journal club to their scenario

A crisis team has been set up in your region. Previously consultants were able to look after patients in the community, and when necessary admit them to hospital. Things have changed. Hospital beds are closed and crisis resolution teams has been created partly to keep people in the community for longer and to avoid hospital admission. You are the manager implementing this change recognising that many of the older generation consultants will be uncomfortable with loosing their beds. You have to meet these consultants soon and you know that they will have thoroughly done their homework as regards of the effectiveness of this 'newfangled approach'.

Questions for participants:

Q 1. What do you think the consultants may ask?

A 1. [Suggestion] "What is the benefit of giving up 'our' beds?"

Q 2. What do you think they mean by 'benefit'?

A 2a. ***List*** the suggestions from participants as these are what will be useful in the role play

A 2b. Do not forget benefit may be to do with managers, clinicians and service users and each one may have a different view on what is a benefit.

Part 1.2 Setting the scene – the Journal club

Complicate the scenario by adding the need to attend this journal club

Knowing you are due to see the consultants in less than an hour you are nevertheless compelled to attend journal club.

You have not had time to read the paper and need some lunch.

By a stroke of luck the paper for discussion focuses on the value of crisis intervention.

Questions for participants:

Q 1. If you had not had this paper fall into your lap where might you have gone for reliable information?

A 1. There are now lots of answers to this - The Cochrane Library, Clinical Evidence, NICE Technology Appraisals.

Anything that has a **reproducible method** by which results are obtained.

Part 2.1 Critical appraisal of the review

For every review there are only three important questions to ask:

1. Are the results valid?

2. What *are* the results?

3. Are the results applicable to the service user?

You now have only 20 mins to get participants though this large review. To do this quickly is not easy, especially as many will not have read the paper in preparation.

Suggestion: Ask participants what salient facts they want to know - especially considering their tight time-scale.

Remind them that the consultants now arrive in about 20 mins.

You should be able to fit most of the suggestions supplied by participants into the three categories of question outlined above.

Read 2.2 as this give more detail of the issues that will, in some shape or form, be supplied by the participants.

If they are not lively—give them a hand.

Do not panic. Bright journal club attendees will come up with all the answers—your job is to help focus their efforts and categorise their answers.

Do not be worried by silence.

Take time to read and think about the review - this is the only time-consuming bit

LIST 1:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

List 2:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

Participants will think of most of the issues - you just need to catch them and write them on a board or flip chart

Part 2.2 The three parts of appraising a review

1. Are the results valid?

There is no point looking at the result if they are clearly not valid.

a. Did the review address a clearly focused issue?

Did the review describe the population studied, intervention given, outcomes considered?

b. Did the authors select the right sort of studies for the review?

The right studies would address the review's question, have an adequate study design

c. Do you think the important, relevant studies were included?

Look for which bibliographic databases were used, personal contact with experts, search for unpublished as well as published studies, search for non-English language studies

d. Did the review's authors do enough to assess the quality of the included studies?

Did they use description of randomization, a rating scale?

2. What *are* the results?

a. Were the results similar from study to study?

Are the results of all included studies clearly displayed?

Are the results from different studies similar?

If not, are the reasons for variations between studies discussed?

b. What is the overall result of the review?

Is there a clinical bottom-line?

What is it?

What is the numerical result?

c. How precise are the results?

Is there a confidence interval?

3. Can I use the results to help the service user?

a. Can I apply the results to the service user?

Is the service user so different from those in the trial that the results don't apply?

b. Should I apply the results to the service user?

How great would the benefit of therapy be for this particular person?

Is the intervention consistent with the service user's values and preferences?

Were all the clinically important outcomes considered?

Are the benefits worth the harms and costs?

Part 2.3 Doing the appraisal

Having managed the interactive session with the participants - acquiring the three questions that need to be addressed by those appraising a review and some idea of how to answer each of those questions - now divide the room into three.

Apportion one of the questions per group and ask each group to get a feel for the whole review (1 min) but to focus on answering their particular question for the rest of the participants (5 mins or so).

Encourage talking to each other.

Move round the room to help the groups if they seem to need it.

Have your copy of the review marked up with where they may look for answers -although in a good review it should be obvious.

Stop the flow after about 10 minutes and ask each group to report in turn.

Do Group 1 really think that the review uses valid methods? Why?

After the first group's report you may want to ask everyone to vote whether to proceed or not.
If they agree to proceed —see if you can **get Group 2 to give you the clinical bottom line.**

We suggest that the Graph providing data for 'Global impression: 1. Not clinically improved – for people with treatment resistant illnesses' best fits the service user's request of information about getting 'better'.

And from **Group 3 get some feel of how applicable the findings are.**

There is no point proceeding to the second question if journal club participants think the results are not valid

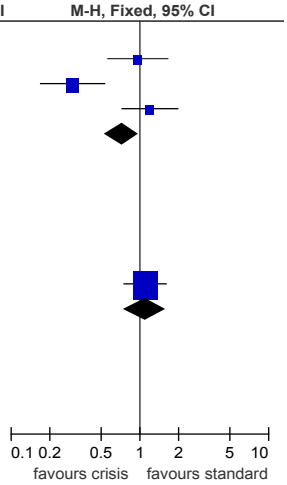
"What is the benefit of giving up 'our' beds?"

Part 2.4 A quick a dirty way to work out NNT

COMPARISON 1: HOME-BASED CARE + INITIAL CRISIS INTERVENTION vs 'STANDARD CARE'

Outcome 1.5: Hospital use: 2. Unable to avoid repeat admissions

Study or Subgroup	CRISIS Events	CRISIS Total	STANDARD Events	STANDARD Total	Weight	Risk Ratio M-H, Fixed, 95% CI
1.5.1 by 12 months						
Fenton 1979	19	76	21	81	26.0%	0.96 [0.56, 1.65]
Hoult 1983	11	60	36	59	46.5%	0.30 [0.17, 0.53]
Muijen 1992	25	92	22	97	27.4%	1.20 [0.73, 1.97]
Subtotal (95% CI)		**228**		**237**	**100.0%**	**0.72 [0.54, 0.97]**
Total events	55		79			
Heterogeneity: Chi² = 14.16, df = 2 (P = 0.0008); I² = 86%						
Test for overall effect: Z = 2.19 (P = 0.03)						
1.5.2 by 20 months						
Muijen 1992	35	91	34	97	100.0%	1.10 [0.75, 1.60]
Subtotal (95% CI)		**91**		**97**	**100.0%**	**1.10 [0.75, 1.60]**
Total events	35		34			
Heterogeneity: Not applicable						
Test for overall effect: Z = 0.48 (P = 0.63)						



55 people out of 228 given crisis intervention were unable to avoid repeat admission in the long term (**24**%) but 79 people out of 237 allocated to standard care were unable to avoid re-admission (**33**%).
So, because a few people would have avoided repeat admission without crisis intervention, the proportion *attributable* to taking taking crisis intervention, according to these results, is the difference between the groups (or 33% minus 24% = 9%). Just round up or down to make it easy. Lets say, in this case, 10%.
So 10% of people in these trials, in the long term, avoided repeat admission – or put another way, 1 in 10, or put another way NNT = 10.

Part 3. Consultants arrive

This is the most important part of the journal club—the *practical application* of what knowledge you have gained.

This is one way of doing it.

Set out two chairs in consultation style.

Do not call for a volunteer—just nominate someone to be the clinician and you be the consultant.

Make sure that the clinician feels they can have time to ask their [relieved for not being singled out] colleagues for help [remember—this has got to be a combination of practical and fun].

Back on page 2 there are suggestions for what the consultants may ask—use them.

"What is the benefit of giving up 'our' beds?"

See if they can put across in a supportive way the best evidence as they understand it.

There is no perfect way to do this—but perhaps something like this:

"The best evidence we have is from the drug companies and is imperfect—but there is the impression that, for people not too dissimilar to you, about 1 in 4 really show an improvement by only a few weeks."

What do YOU mean by "benefit"? would be a good next question.

Again there is no right answer but think about how to put into words what the research outcome really means.

Perhaps - "the improvement that the best evidence suggests may not be all that you would want or hope for—but there is the residing suggestion that about 1 in 4 people get a clinical improvement in the short term that is reasonably easily recognisable. That does not necessarily mean a cure but the measures used in these studies could on the other hand have averaged up so much that they missed out on the really important detailed changes like the devil becoming quiet."

As has been said—there is not right answer and all depends on personal style and situation. Your job is to encourage the best answer out of the clinician.

If it is going well there are other questions that you may ask—see side box XX.

Limitations of using this means of calculating NNT is that is does not take into account the baseline risk of the control group and does not give confidence intervals.

In this case factoring in baseline risk of the control group does not make a difference.
NNT = 11, 95% CI 7-102

http://www.nntonline.net/ebm/visualrx/what.asp

Box 1. Additional questions

☑ **The clinicians may suggest that you really should not calculate NNT on such heterogeneous data. Are they correct?**

They may well be. Hoult 1983 clearly is very positive and different from the other two trials. Removing this study from the analysis causes the summary Risk Ratio to become not statically significant. How does this influence the arguments of the clinicians and the managers in the real world situation they find themselves in?

☑ **Is this just a cost-cutting exercise?**

It may be. Data are very difficult to interpret and dated. The Crisis approach has evolved much since the days of these trials - but there was the impression from these old data that Crisis Team approach was less expensive.

☑ **Do service users not object?**

No, if anything the impression off service users and their relatives is that they are more satisfied with the crisis team approach.

End on a positive note. Feedback how in a matter of minutes they have got though the bare bones of a big review, appraised and applied it—and, you hope, enjoyed doing it.

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Special points of interest:

- The idea of this is to lead you from the clinical situation, trough the research and back to the real-world clinical situation again
- You may or may not have read the paper - but even if you have not that does not mean that you cannot get something out of this

- Make sure you participate, and speak up - you will have to in the real clinic
- There is no perfect way of doing this - each person has an individual way of interacting and conveying information

Crisis Intervention for schizophrenia - HANDOUT FOR PARTICIPANTS

Produced by the Editorial base of the Cochrane Schizophrenia Group
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The consultants will arrive soon

What do you think the consultants may ask?

List:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

If you had not had this paper fall into your lap where might you have gone for reliable information?

What key points do you need to know to see if this review can help?*

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

***The consultants arrive in 30 mins**

After discussion do you want to change the key points you need to know to see if this review can help?*

1.

2.

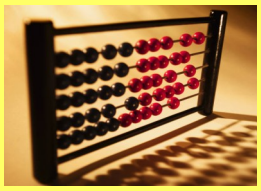
3.

***The consultants arrive in 10 mins**

Can you extract numbers that will be useful to you and the consultants?

Clue: focus on what you think the consultants may ask - main effects and adverse effects - graph number '0203' may be a good one to use

1. Can you put relative risk into words?



The arithmetic is not complicated

2. Can you work out the proportion of improvements *attributable* to use of clozapine?

3. Can you work out the number needed to treat?

4. Can you put that into words?

Consultants arrive

Is there a good use of words you would want to use?

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Special points of interest:

- Best evidence suggests that clinically focused problem-based learning "has positive effects on physician competency" even long into the future. [1]

1. Koh GC, Khoo HE, Wong ML, Koh D. The effects of problem-based learning during medical school on physician competency: a systematic review. CMAJ 2008; 178(1):34-41. (free online)

CATmaker

This can be part of a store of Critically Appraised Topics - see CATmaker online

Crisis Intervention for schizophrenia - PARTICIPANTS' CRIB SHEET

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A quick a dirty way to work out NNT (Graph 0203)

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Thank you

This is one of 40 Cochrane Schizophrenia Group Guides for Journal Clubs

A full list is found on

http://szg.cochrane.org/journal-club

Crisis Intervention for schizophrenia - FEEDBACK

Date and place of journal club

1. How many attended?

About

2. What was the background of the people attending? (please tick)

Health care professionals

Consumers

Policymakers

Undergraduate

Postgraduate

Others

3. Marks out of ten compared with usual journal club

(10=much better, 5=same, 0 = much worse)

Free text feedback