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Psychological and pharmacological interventions for depression in patients with coronary artery disease
(Review)

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[Intervention Review]

Psychological and pharmacological interventions for depression in patients with coronary artery disease

Harald Baumeister¹, Nico Hutter¹, Jürgen Bengel¹

¹Department of Rehabilitation Psychology and Psychotherapy, Institute of Psychology, University of Freiburg, Freiburg, Germany

Contact address: Harald Baumeister, Department of Rehabilitation Psychology and Psychotherapy, Institute of Psychology, University of Freiburg, Engelbergerstr. 41, Freiburg, 79085, Germany. baumeister@psychologie.uni-freiburg.de.

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ABSTRACT

Background

Depression occurs frequently in patients with coronary artery disease (CAD) and is associated with a poor prognosis.

Objectives

To determine the effects of psychological and pharmacological interventions for depression in CAD patients with comorbid depression.

Search methods

CENTRAL, DARE, HTA and EED on *The Cochrane Library*, MEDLINE, EMBASE, PsycINFO, CINAHL, ISRCTN Register and CardioSource Registry were searched. Reference lists of included randomised controlled trials (RCTs) were examined and primary authors contacted. No language restrictions were applied.

Selection criteria

RCTs investigating psychological and pharmacological interventions for depression in adults with CAD and comorbid depression were included. Primary outcomes were depression, mortality and cardiac events. Secondary outcomes were healthcare costs and health-related quality of life (QoL).

Data collection and analysis

Two reviewers independently examined the identified papers for inclusion and extracted data from included studies. Random effects model meta-analyses were performed to compute overall estimates of treatment outcomes.

Main results

The database search identified 3,253 references. Sixteen trials fulfilled the inclusion criteria. Psychological interventions show a small beneficial effect on depression compared to usual care (range of SMD of depression scores across trials and time frames: -0.81;0.12). Based on one trial per outcome, no beneficial effects on mortality rates, cardiac events, cardiovascular hospitalizations and QoL were found, except for the psychosocial dimension of QoL. Furthermore, no differences on treatment outcomes were found between the varying psychological approaches. The review provides evidence of a small beneficial effect of pharmacological interventions with selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs) compared to placebo on depression outcomes (pooled SMD of short term depression change scores: -0.24 [-0.38,-0.09]; pooled OR of short term depression remission: 1.80 [1.18,2.74]). Based on one to three trials per outcome, no beneficial effects regarding mortality, cardiac events and QoL were found. Hospitalization rates (pooled OR of three trials: 0.58 [0.39,0.85] and emergency room visits (OR of one trial: 0.58 [0.34,1.00]) were reduced in trials of pharmacological interventions compared to placebo. No evidence of a superior effect of Paroxetine (SSRI) versus Nortriptyline (TCA) regarding depression outcomes was found in one trial.

Authors' conclusions

Psychological interventions and pharmacological interventions with SSRIs may have a small yet clinically meaningful effect on depression outcomes in CAD patients. No beneficial effects on the reduction of mortality rates and cardiac events were found. Overall, however, the evidence is sparse due to the low number of high quality trials per outcome and the heterogeneity of examined populations and interventions.

PLAIN LANGUAGE SUMMARY**Treatments for depression in patients with coronary artery disease**

This review examined clinical trials on psychological treatments and antidepressant drugs in depressed patients with coronary artery disease. The objective was to determine the effects of these treatments on depression, death rates, cardiac events such as another heart attack or surgeries, healthcare costs and quality of life. Sixteen trials were identified as relevant for the review. Seven trials investigated psychological treatments, eight trials antidepressant medications and one trial comprised both psychological and drug treatments. Psychological treatments and antidepressant drugs proved to be slightly superior to usual care or placebo (inactive drug) with regard to depressive symptoms. Furthermore, antidepressant drugs might be superior to placebo in reducing subsequent hospitalization rates and emergency room visits. In contrast, there seems to be no positive effect on death rates and cardiac events. Results regarding quality of life are inconclusive. In summary, psychological treatments and antidepressant medications may have a small yet positive effect on depression outcomes in CAD patients. However, the evidence is sparse due to the low number of trials.

BACKGROUND

Coronary artery disease (CAD) is the single leading cause of death for both men and women in developed countries (Budde 2005). Similar to other chronic diseases (Baumeister 2007; Härter 2007b), a strong association between CAD and comorbid depression has been consistently reported (Baumeister 2010a; Härter 2007b; Ormel 2007; Rudisch 2003; Thombs 2006). Results from the World Mental Health Survey (Ormel 2007) indicate a twofold increased risk of depression for patients with heart disease compared to patients without heart disease. Rudisch and Nemeroff (Rudisch 2003) reported prevalence rates for depression in CAD ranging from 17% to 27%. Depending on the assessment method the prevalence rates for depression in myocardial infarction vary between 15.5% and 31.1% (Thombs 2006). Four months after discharge most patients still suffer from depressive symptoms (Thombs 2006).

The increased prevalence rates raise the issue of the impact of comorbid depression on the patients' life and the health care system. Recent original studies and systematic reviews document a significant prognostic association between comorbid depression and increased mortality, morbidity and health care costs as well as diminished quality of life and adherence to treatment regimen (Barth 2004; Baumeister 2005; Baumeister 2011a; Frasure-Smith 2000; Frasure-Smith 2003; Herrmann-Lingen 2006; Ziegelstein 2000).

Description of the condition

Coronary artery disease (CAD) is one of the most common forms of heart disease. One of the main underlying problems in cardiovascular disease is atherosclerosis, a process that plugs blood vessels with deposits of fat, cholesterol and other substances (WHO 1992). It is most serious when it restricts the blood supply to the heart (myocardial ischemia). Clinical manifestations of CAD are acute coronary syndrome comprising myocardial infarction (MI) and unstable angina (Antman 2004) as well as stable angina pectoris (Fox 2006). MI refers to what is commonly known as a "heart attack". It occurs when prolonged myocardial ischemia leads to myocardial cell death (necrosis) (Alpert 2000).

Depression is an emotional state characterised by strong feelings of sadness, worthlessness and guilt, withdrawal from others, sleeplessness and loss of appetite, sexual desire and interest in usual activities (Davison 2003). Depressive disorders can be reliably diagnosed through structured clinical interviews. The severity of depressive symptoms is usually assessed by patient- or clinician-administered validated rating scales. Cut-off scores have been validated for these scales which correspond to the likelihood of an indication of depression (Sadock 2009). Recommendations for the assessment of depression in patients with cardiovascular disease are available (Davidson 2006).

Description of the intervention

Psychological interventions comprise Cognitive Behavioural Therapy, Psychodynamic Psychotherapy, Interpersonal Psychotherapy, other approaches such as Non-directive or Supportive Therapy and Counselling as well as single techniques of these interventions (Davison 2003). The mode of delivery comprises individual, group or family (including couple) therapy carried out by a health care professional. A comparative meta-analysis of 53 psychotherapy studies in adults with depression

Cuijpers 2008a conclude that most approaches are equally effective, with the exception of a small beneficial effect of Interpersonal Psychotherapy and a slightly lower effect of Non-directive Supportive Therapy.

Antidepressant drugs are commonly used treatments in depressed patients. In general, the available medications do not differ in their overall efficacy and effectiveness, but differ substantially regarding short- and long-term side effects (NICE 2009; Sadock 2009). Antidepressant treatment selection depends on the type of depressive disorder and the presence of comorbid somatic or mental disorders. Among many different drugs, main pharmacological classes of antidepressant medications are selective serotonin re-uptake inhibitors (SSRIs), serotonin-norepinephrine reuptake inhibitors (SNRIs), tricyclic antidepressants (TCAs) and monoamine oxidase inhibitors (MAOIs). For CAD patients with moderate, severe or recurrent depression, SSRIs are viewed as safe and effective pharmacological agents (Lichtman 2008), while TCAs and MAOIs are viewed as contraindicated in these patients because of their cardiac side effects (Lichtman 2008).

How the intervention might work

Many biological and behavioural mechanisms linking CAD and depression are proposed (Härter 2007a; Joynt 2003; Musselman 1998; Skala 2006), comprising pathophysiological pathways such as decreased heart rate variability, platelet activation and endothelial dysfunction (Antman 2004) in depressed CAD patients. Furthermore, an accumulation of behavioural risk factors (smoking, physical inactivity and imbalanced diet) and comorbid medical disorders (hypertension, diabetes and obesity) in depressed patients might affect the development and course of CAD (Joynt 2003; Whooley 2008). Psychosocial stress constitutes a risk factor for both CAD and depression (Joynt 2003).

A recent review concludes that pharmacological interventions for depression might influence physiological pathways linking depression and CAD (Skala 2006). Psychological treatments may also affect physiological processes, but the interrelations between behavioural and physiological mechanisms remain unclear (Skala 2006). Psychological interventions might not only improve depression outcomes in CAD patients with comorbid depressive disorder, but may also improve medical outcome parameters by encouraging behaviour changes towards a healthier lifestyle in these patients (Rees 2004).

Why it is important to do this review

With regard to the high prevalence rates and the impact of comorbid depression on both medical and psychosocial outcomes, there is a need for effective depression treatments in CAD. In various systematic reviews, psychological and psychopharmacological interventions have proven to be effective interventions for the treatment of major depression in general (Cuijpers 2008a; Cuijpers 2008b; NICE 2009; Sadock 2009). However, as yet, there has been no systematic review on psychological and pharmacological interventions on the effects of depression treatment in CAD patients with comorbid depressive disorders.

A Cochrane review examined the effects of non-specific psychological interventions in CAD patients in general (Rees 2004), indicating small reductions in depression and anxiety symptoms,

but no significant effects of psychological interventions on all-cause or cardiac mortality. However, the review did not study the effects of depression-specific treatment in the population of CAD patients with comorbid depressive disorder. Furthermore, the review included non-specific psychological interventions (mainly stress management), whereas the focus of our review is on depression-specific psychological or pharmacological interventions explicitly used for treating depression. Some RCTs may be included in both reviews, but the research questions remain different owing to the focus of our review on the effects of depression treatments in depressed CAD patients.

The review will allow conclusions on the effects of depression treatment in CAD patients with comorbid depressive disorders. Depending on the number of primary studies, conclusions may be drawn concerning differential effects of type of intervention on depression and mortality or non-fatal cardiac events, as well as on patients' quality of life, thus providing a basis for treatment recommendations. Furthermore, follow-up data may be examined concerning health care costs of the interventions. Sources of heterogeneity in the results of the primary studies can be explored and could help to provide suggestions for the design of future studies.

OBJECTIVES

To determine the effects of psychological and pharmacological interventions for depression in CAD patients with comorbid depressive disorder.

METHODS

Criteria for considering studies for this review

Types of studies

Randomized controlled clinical trials (RCTs) of any length of treatment and any length of follow-up.

Types of participants

Adults (18 years or older) with CAD (ICD-10: I20-I25 ([WHO 1992](#))) and comorbid depressive disorder (ICD-10: F32/33/34.1 ([WHO 1992](#)); DSM-IV: 296.xx; 300.4 ([APA 1994](#)); including subthreshold conditions) assessed by standardized interviews, self-reports, medical records or physicians' diagnosis. Inclusion of primary studies was not further limited to specific clinical subgroups in order to increase the generalisability of the results of the review.

With regard to comorbid depression, studies comprising mixed study samples (e.g. both depressed CAD patients and CAD patients with low social support ([ENRICH 2003](#))) were included in the review (see [Subgroup analysis and investigation of heterogeneity](#)).

Types of interventions

Psychological interventions comprise Cognitive Behavioural Therapy, Psychodynamic Psychotherapy, Interpersonal Psychotherapy, other approaches such as Non-directive or Supportive Therapy and Counselling ([Davison 2003](#)). The mode of delivery was defined as individual, group or family (including couple) therapy carried out by a health care professional. The comparison group was 'no intervention' or 'usual care'. With regard to differential or incremental effects of different treatment approaches, trials with a control group receiving

pharmacological treatment or another psychological treatment were also considered.

Pharmacological interventions included all antidepressant medications and other drug therapies used explicitly for treating depressive disorders ([Sadock 2009](#)). The control group was placebo. Pharmacological treatments compared to other pharmacological medications or psychological interventions were included to determine differential or incremental effects.

Types of outcome measures

Primary outcomes

Primary outcomes are depression (measured either dimensionally or categorically) following the intervention, as assessed by validated self-report questionnaires or standardized interviews, all-cause and CAD-related mortality as well as non-fatal cardiac events or surgery (e.g. coronary artery bypass graft (CABG), percutaneous transluminal coronary angioplasty (PTCA)).

Secondary outcomes

Secondary outcomes are health care costs or resource utilization and health-related quality of life (QoL).

Search methods for identification of studies

Electronic searches

The following databases were searched for RCTs of treatment of depressive disorders in CAD patients on 15 July 2009:

- Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials (CENTRAL) (*The Cochrane Library* Issue 2, 2009),
- MEDLINE on OVID (1950 to July Week 2 2009),
- EMBASE on OVID (1980 to 2009 Week 27),
- PsycINFO on OVID (1806 to July Week 1 2009),
- CINAHL on EBSCO (1982 to July 2009)
- Database of Abstracts of Reviews of Effects (DARE), NHS Economic Evaluation Database (EED) and the Health Technology Assessment Database (HTA) (*The Cochrane Library* Issue 2, 2009).

RCT filters were used for MEDLINE ([Higgins 2008](#)) and EMBASE ([Lefebvre 1996](#)). Adaptations of these have been applied to the other databases. See [Appendix 1](#) for details of the search strategies. No language restrictions were applied.

Searching other resources

The International Standard Randomized Controlled Trial Number register (ISRCTN, <http://isrctn.org/>) and CardioSource Registry of Randomized Cardiovascular Clinical Trials (<http://www.cardiosource.com>) were searched.

In addition, reference lists of all references of included trials were examined to identify other potentially relevant studies. All corresponding authors of included trials were contacted and asked about other RCTs, published or unpublished, which might be relevant to the review.

Data collection and analysis

Selection of studies

Two review authors (HB and NH) independently selected relevant studies for inclusion. A list of titles and abstracts were examined. If title and abstract contained sufficient information to determine exclusion, the article was rejected. The full papers of all remaining articles were retrieved and then reviewed by two authors (HB and NH) independently. In addition, all other potentially relevant articles identified by checking the reference lists or personal communications were also reviewed. A record of all rejected papers and the reasons for rejection was kept. Important parts of foreign-language papers of included studies (i.e. not English or German) were translated into English. If the two review authors disagreed about the inclusion of an article, a third reviewer (JB) was asked to review the article. Disagreements were solved by consensus discussion.

Data extraction and management

Data from full copies of primary studies were independently extracted by two review authors (HB and NH) using a data extraction form. Study characteristics including participants (sample size at baseline and follow-up, type of CAD, gender, age), type of depression (major depression, minor depression or dysthymic disorder), assessment method (standardized diagnostic interview, self-report questionnaire, medical record or physician's diagnosis), cut-off used to indicate depression on self-report questionnaire, type of intervention (type of psychological treatment versus type of pharmacological treatment), comparison group (no intervention, usual care, another psychological treatment or pharmacological treatment), length of follow-up, descriptive statistics of primary and secondary outcomes, effect sizes and confidence intervals were extracted.

Assessment of risk of bias in included studies

Two review authors (HB and NH) independently assessed the risk of bias in included studies using the Cochrane Collaboration's tool for assessing risk of bias (Higgins 2008). Sequence generation, allocation concealment, selective outcome reporting and other sources of bias were described. With regard to psychological interventions, blinding of health care providers or patients concerning the treatment is not feasible. Trials of psychological interventions were therefore only evaluated regarding the blinding of the outcome assessors. In pharmacological trials blinding is possible for patients, personnel and outcome assessor and was evaluated accordingly.

Measures of treatment effect

Standardized mean differences (SMD) with 95% confidence intervals were computed for all continuous outcomes. Primary studies reported depression either as mean change scores from baseline to final assessment or as mean scores of final assessments. Mean differences based on change scores from baseline to final assessment can be assumed to represent the same intervention effects as mean differences based on final assessments in RCTs. However, since the standard deviations of final mean scores and mean change scores differ depending on the reliability of the measurements, final mean scores and mean change scores cannot be combined as SMD. Hence, meta-analyses of final depression mean scores and mean depression change scores are reported

separately. For dichotomous variables odds ratios (OR) with 95% confidence interval were computed.

Unit of analysis issues

The unit of analysis in the primary studies is the patient, which is randomized to either the treatment or the control group. Thus, the number of observations matches the number of units that are randomized. Multiple observations in primary studies as well as heterogeneity concerning follow-up length between studies were analysed using different time frames, which reflect short-term (end of treatment), medium-term (1-6 months after end of treatment) and long-term (>6 months after end of treatment) follow-up.

Dealing with missing data

Missing information from published RCTs was requested from the corresponding authors. Of fourteen authors contacted because of missing data, four replied, and three were able to provide at least some of the requested data. No imputation methods were used due to the small amount of trials per outcome.

Assessment of heterogeneity

Heterogeneity was tested for statistical significance by using the Q -statistics with a 95% confidence interval. To examine the extent of heterogeneity, I^2 was computed.

Assessment of reporting biases

Funnel plots to investigate reporting bias were not created and not tested for asymmetry due to the small amount of trials per outcome. To examine outcome reporting bias, discrepancies in reported outcomes between published protocols and original papers were analysed. Where no protocol was available, corresponding trial authors were asked for published or unpublished protocols.

Data synthesis

Random effects meta-analyses were performed to compute overall estimates of treatment outcomes. The effect sizes of the primary studies are presented in forest plots.

Many trials used more than one tool to assess depression outcomes. Thus, we used a hierarchical approach to decide which assessment to use in the meta-analyses. Clinician-rated assessments were given priority over patient self-report questionnaires, since they met the requirement for a blinded outcome assessment. If no clinician-rated depression assessment was available, data from patient self-report questionnaires were used.

Subgroup analysis and investigation of heterogeneity

The treatment effects were evaluated separately for the subgroups of pharmacological and psychological interventions. Subgroup analyses to determine the impact of varying study samples (e.g. depressed CAD patients vs. mixed study samples of patients with depression and/or anxiety) on results were planned but not conducted, due to the small amount of trials per outcome.

Sensitivity analysis

Sensitivity analyses to examine the impact of sex (men versus women), CAD subtype, assessment of depression diagnosis (self-report questionnaires versus standardized diagnostic interviews),

time of onset of depression (pre-existing versus new-onset depression), CAD severity and risk of bias of included studies on results were planned but not conducted, due to the small amount of trials per outcome.

RESULTS

Description of studies

See: [Characteristics of included studies](#); [Table 1](#); [Characteristics of excluded studies](#); [Characteristics of studies awaiting classification](#); [Characteristics of ongoing studies](#).

Results of the search

The database search resulted in 3253 references. See the study flowchart for details of the study selection process ([Figure 1](#)).

Figure 1.

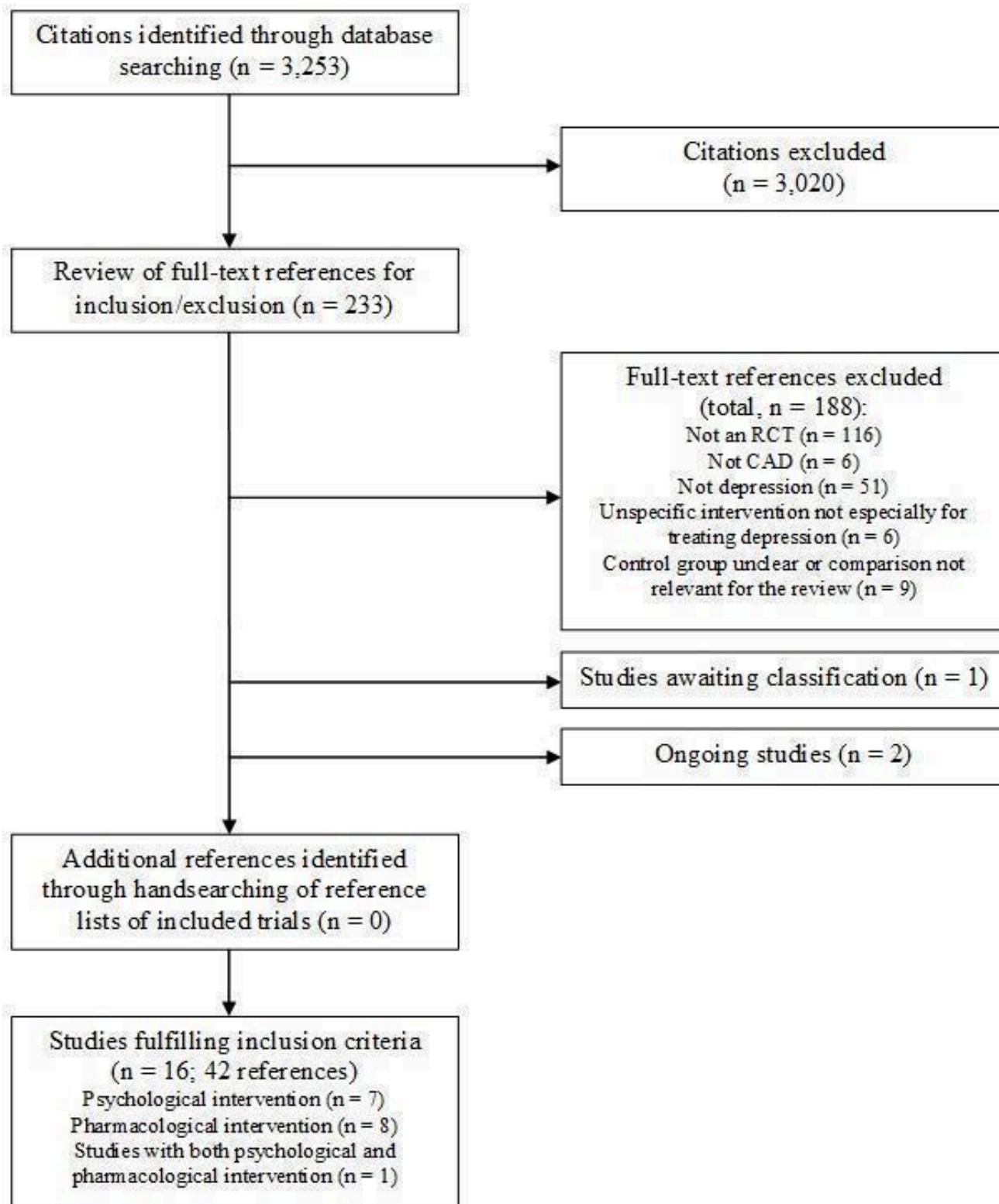


Figure 1: Summary of literature search and study selection

Included studies

Sixteen trials fulfilled the inclusion criteria (Barth 2005; Brown 1993; CREATE 2007; ENRICH 2003; Doering 2007; Fang 2003; Freedland 2009; Freeman 1986; Li 2005; Liu 1999; McFarlane 2001; McLaughlin 2005; MIND-IT 2007; Roose 1998; SADHART 2002; Strik 2000).

Seven of the included trials investigated psychological interventions comprising Cognitive Behaviour Therapy (Brown 1993; Doering 2007; ENRICH 2003; Freedland 2009), Resource-Orientated Psychotherapy (Barth 2005), Telephone Counseling (McLaughlin 2005) and an intervention comprising health education and various psychological treatments (Fang 2003).

Eight trials investigated effects of pharmacological depression treatments with Sertraline (McFarlane 2001; SADHART 2002), Mirtazapine (MIND-IT 2007), Fluoxetine (Liu 1999, Strik 2000), Paroxetine and Nortriptyline (Roose 1998), Alprazolam (Freeman 1986) and St. John's Wort (Li 2005).

One trial (CREATE 2007) had a 2x2 factorial design comprising Interpersonal Psychotherapy and Citalopram.

The trial size in psychological intervention studies ranged from 15 patients in Doering 2007 to 2481 patients in ENRICH 2003. In pharmacological intervention the trial size ranged from 27 patients in McFarlane 2001 to 369 patients in SADHART 2002.

Mean age of the participants ranged from 54.1 (Strik 2000) to 63.6 years (Brown 1993). The percentage of female participants ranged from 10% (Brown 1993) to 56% (Freedland 2009). One study was restricted to female participants (Doering 2007).

Seven studies originated from the USA (Brown 1993; Doering 2007; ENRICH 2003; Freedland 2009; Freeman 1986; McLaughlin 2005; Roose 1998), three from China (Fang 2003; Li 2005; Liu 1999), two from Canada (CREATE 2007; McFarlane 2001), two from the Netherlands (MIND-IT 2007; Strik 2000), one from Germany (Barth

2005) and one was a multisite study, which took place in the USA, Europe, Canada and Australia (SADHART 2002).

Six studies investigated patients with myocardial infarction (ENRICH 2003; Fang 2003; Liu 1999; McFarlane 2001; MIND-IT 2007; Strik 2000). CAD patients comprising myocardial infarction, angina pectoris and patients undergoing cardiac procedures were studied in six trials (Barth 2005; Brown 1993; CREATE 2007; McLaughlin 2005; Roose 1998; SADHART 2002). Four trials investigated patients after CABG (Doering 2007; Freedland 2009; Freeman 1986; Li 2005).

Furthermore, there are two ongoing trials (SPIRR-CAD 2008; UPBEAT 2007) and one study awaiting classification (Malik 2002), which was identified as a conference abstract through the database search. Unfortunately, published data and contact information of the author were not available.

Excluded studies

A total of 16 trials (Black 1998, Bucknall 1988, Davidson 2010, Fu 2006, González-Jaimes 2003, Kachkovskii 2006, Mohapatra 2005, Norris 2009, Oldridge 1991, Pogossova 2004, Pogossova 2009, Rollman 2009, Schrader 2005, Stern 1983, Veith 1982, Zeng 2001), which appeared to be relevant for the review, were excluded after careful examination of eligibility criteria (see Characteristics of excluded studies for reasons for exclusion).

Risk of bias in included studies

The risk of bias in included studies varied across studies (see Figure 2 and Figure 3). The available information after translating parts of the three Chinese trials (Fang 2003; Li 2005; Liu 1999) was not sufficient to make any judgments regarding risk of bias in these studies. Furthermore, many other issues of these studies remained unclear as well (see Characteristics of included studies). Hence, we decided not to report the results of the Chinese studies in this review due to the lack of information.

Figure 2. Risk of bias graph: review authors' judgements about each risk of bias item presented as percentages across all included studies.

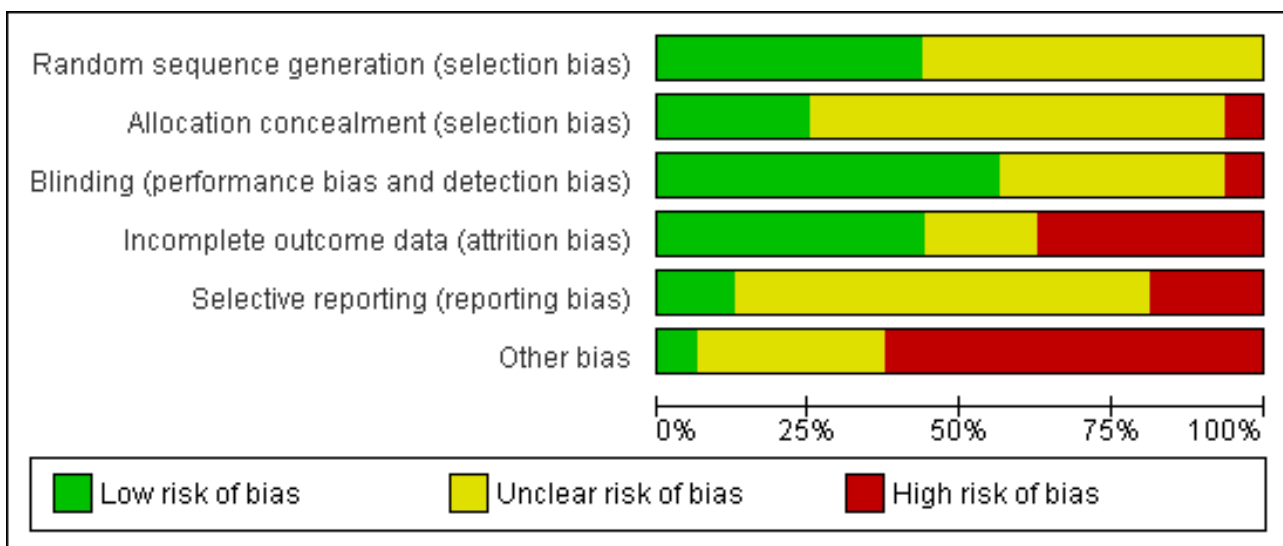


Figure 3. Risk of bias summary: review authors' judgements about each risk of bias item for each included study.

	Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Blinding (performance bias and detection bias)	Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias)	Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Other bias
Barth 2005	+	+	+	-	?	?
Brown 1993	?	?	?	-	?	-
CREATE 2007	+	+	+	+	+	-
Doering 2007	?	?	+	-	?	?
ENRICH 2003	+	+	+	+	-	-
Fang 2003	?	?	?	?	?	?
Freedland 2009	+	+	+	+	+	+
Freeman 1986	?	?	?	-	-	-
Li 2005	?	?	?	?	?	?
Liu 1999	?	?	?	?	?	?
McFarlane 2001	?	?	?	-	?	-
McLaughlin 2005	+	-	-	-	?	-
MIND-IT 2007	+	?	+	+	?	-
Roose 1998	+	?	+	+	?	-
SADHART 2002	?	?	+	+	?	-
Strik 2000	?	?	+	+	-	-

Allocation

Four trials used an appropriately generated and adequately concealed randomisation procedure (Barth 2005; ENRICH 2003; Freedland 2009; CREATE 2007). The generation of the randomisation sequence appeared to be generated appropriately in three trials, which however did not sufficiently describe the concealment of the allocation (MIND-IT 2007; Roose 1998) or failed to conceal the allocation adequately (McLaughlin 2005). Details regarding sequence generation and allocation concealment remained unclear for the remaining nine trials (Brown 1993;

Doering 2007; Fang 2003; Freeman 1986; Li 2005; Liu 1999; McFarlane 2001; SADHART 2002; Strik 2000).

Blinding

The outcome assessor was blinded in five psychological intervention trials (Barth 2005; CREATE 2007; Doering 2007; ENRICH 2003; Freedland 2009). Two trials did not report details regarding blinding (Brown 1993, Fang 2003). One psychological trial was judged as unblinded as the outcome was assessed using patient self-report (McLaughlin 2005).

In one pharmacological trial blinding was adequately realised and described (CREATE 2007). Four pharmacological trials stated a double-blind method but did not describe who was blinded (MIND-IT 2007; Roose 1998; SADHART 2002; Strik 2000). The remaining four trials did not report sufficient information regarding blinding of staff, participants and outcome assessors (Freeman 1986; Li 2005; Liu 1999; McFarlane 2001).

Incomplete outcome data

Seven trials provided intention to treat (ITT) analyses (CREATE 2007; ENRICH 2003; Freedland 2009; MIND-IT 2007; Roose 1998; SADHART 2002; Strik 2000) for all primary outcomes except for the depression outcomes in ENRICH 2003. Six trials reported per-protocol analyses (Barth 2005; Brown 1993; Doering 2007; Freeman 1986; McFarlane 2001; McLaughlin 2005). Details for the three Chinese trials were not available (Fang 2003; Li 2005; Liu 1999).

Selective reporting

Two studies were judged as free of selective reporting (CREATE 2007; Freedland 2009) based on the comparison of outcomes reported in published study protocols and original papers. Three RCTs did not report the results of all the outcomes mentioned in published protocols or methods sections (ENRICH 2003; Freeman 1986; Strik 2000). For the remaining eleven trials no published or unpublished protocols were available (Barth 2005; Brown 1993; Doering 2007; Fang 2003; Li 2005; Liu 1999; McFarlane 2001; McLaughlin 2005; MIND-IT 2007; Roose 1998; SADHART 2002). Thus, it remains unclear whether or not there is a risk of selective reporting in these trials.

Other potential sources of bias

One study was judged free of other sources of bias (Freedland 2009). Six pharmacological studies were sponsored by pharmaceutical industries and were thus judged as having a potential conflict of interest (CREATE 2007; Freeman 1986, MIND-IT 2007; Roose 1998; SADHART 2002; Strik 2000). ENRICH 2003 as a psychological study provided pharmaceutical treatment with sertraline for the subgroup of patients with no or little response to Cognitive Behavior Therapy after five weeks. Sertraline was thereby sponsored by industry (Pfizer Inc.) and ENRICH 2003 was thus judged as having a potential conflict of interest.

The risk for other biases remains unclear for the three Chinese trials (Fang 2003; Li 2005; Liu 1999).

Barth 2005 may exhibit a performance bias because the manual adherence of therapists in the treatment group remains unclear. Furthermore, in inpatient studies therapists and clinic staff are not blind to the patients' allocation, which might impact the inpatient treatment of the intervention and the control group.

In ENRICH 2003 QoL was not assessed at baseline and it thus remains unclear whether or not QoL was balanced in the two groups at baseline.

The study sample in Brown 1993 exhibits significant baseline differences regarding age, religion, Symptom Checklist-90-Revised (SCL 90-R), Beck Depression Inventory (BDI) (with controls being more distressed on SCL 90-R and BDI). Furthermore, no efforts for controlling therapy quality are mentioned in the publication.

Doering 2007 reported no efforts for controlling nurse therapists protocol adherence. Furthermore, while usual care comprised psychiatrists' recommendations for individualised treatment options, data on these treatments are not reported (Doering 2007).

In Freeman 1986, 60% of 459 patients met criteria for inclusion, but only 23% were included. Furthermore, in this study of CABG patients with depression and/or anxiety, the treatment group had significantly higher anxiety scores at baseline and no further information regarding comparability of groups is given (possible baseline imbalance).

In McFarlane 2001 (p. 619 and p. 620) and McLaughlin 2005 (discrepancy between text and figure of Hospital Anxiety Depression Score (HADS)) results are inconsistently reported.

Effects of interventions

Comparison 1: Psychological intervention versus usual care

Six trials with a total of 2858 patients studied the effects of a psychological intervention versus usual care (Barth 2005; ENRICH 2003; Doering 2007, Fang 2003, Freedland 2009, McLaughlin 2005). Pooling results across different types of psychological interventions may level out specific treatment effects. However, due to the lack of trial numbers we combined these studies and conducted analyses of heterogeneity. In case of heterogeneous results, findings of primary studies are descriptively reported.

1.1 Depression score - short term:

Effects of psychological interventions on short term depression scores (i.e. end of treatment) were investigated in five studies (Barth 2005; Doering 2007; Fang 2003; Freedland 2009; McLaughlin 2005). Three of these studies did not report sufficient information to compute effect sizes (Doering 2007; Fang 2003; McLaughlin 2005).

The meta-analysis of two trials (Freedland 2009; Barth 2005) [n=127] indicated a non-significant estimate with substantial heterogeneity (Analysis 1.1). Cognitive Behaviour Therapy was superior to usual care on the Hamilton Depression Rating Scale (HAM-D) (Freedland 2009) [n=46] (SMD of final mean scores: -0.81 [-1.26, -0.36]) whereas Resource-Orientated Psychotherapy did not show a beneficial effect on the Bech Rafaelsen Melancholia Scale (BRMS) compared to usual care (Barth 2005) [n=81].

1.2 Depression score - medium term:

Effects of psychological interventions on medium term depression scores (i.e. one to six months after treatment) were investigated in four studies (Doering 2007; ENRICH 2003; Freedland 2009; McLaughlin 2005). Two of these studies did not report sufficient information to compute effect sizes (Doering 2007, McLaughlin 2005).

Cognitive Behaviour Therapy was superior to usual care on HAM-D depression in one study (ENRICH 2003) [n=1802] (SMD of mean change scores: -0.19 [-0.28, -0.10]), but not in another trial (Freedland 2009) [n=81] (Analysis 1.2).

1.3 Depression score - long term:

Cognitive Behaviour Therapy was superior to usual care on long term (i.e. more than six months after treatment) HAM-D depression scores (SMD of final mean scores: -0.75 [-1.20, -0.30]) (Freedland 2009) [n=81].

1.4 Depression remission - short, medium and long term:

Only Freedland (Freedland 2009) [n=81] reported on depression remission (HAM-D < 7). Both, in the short (i.e. end of treatment) and long term (more than six months after end of treatment) Cognitive Behaviour Therapy was beneficial compared to usual care (OR: 5.02 [1.95, 12.90]; OR: 5.06 [1.96, 13.08]). No effect was observed in the medium term (i.e. one to six months after end of treatment).

1.5 Mortality, cardiac events, and cardiovascular hospitalizations:

Only the ENRICH trial (ENRICH 2003) [n=2481] reported on all-cause and cardiovascular mortality, recurrent nonfatal MI and revascularization procedures, as well as cardiovascular hospitalizations. No effect between the Cognitive Behaviour Therapy group and usual care was observed on any of these outcomes.

1.6 Quality of life - short term:

Effects of psychological interventions on short term QoL were investigated in one study using mean final scores of the Medical Outcomes Study Short-Form 36-item Health Survey (SF-36) (Freedland 2009) [n=81]. No effect was observed for Cognitive Behaviour Therapy compared to usual care on the Physical Component Summary (PCS) score, whereas the improvement on the Mental Component Summary (MCS) score was higher in the treatment group (SMD: 0.75 [0.30, 1.20]).

1.7 Quality of life - medium term:

Effects of psychological interventions on medium term QoL were investigated in one study using mean final scores of the SF-36 (Freedland 2009) [n=81]. No effect was observed for Cognitive Behaviour Therapy compared to usual care on the PCS score, whereas the improvement on the MCS score was higher in the treatment group (SMD: 0.61 [0.16, 1.05]). One further study did not report sufficient information to compute effects sizes regarding quality of life (ENRICH 2003).

1.8 Quality of life - long term:

Effects of psychological interventions on long term QoL were investigated in one study using mean final scores of the SF-36 (Freedland 2009) [n=81]. No effect was observed for Cognitive Behaviour Therapy compared to usual care on the PCS score compared to usual care, whereas the improvement on the MCS score was higher in the treatment group (SMD: 0.53 [0.09, 0.98]).

Comparison 2: Psychological intervention versus psychological intervention

In three trials with a total of 461 participants the effects of a specific psychological intervention were compared with the effects of another psychological intervention (Brown 1993; CREATE 2007; Freedland 2009). Pooled estimates will not be reported for this comparison due to the heterogeneous interventions and comparators examined in these trials.

2.1 Depression score - short term:

Effects of psychological interventions compared to another psychological intervention on short term depression scores (i.e. end of treatment) were investigated in three studies (Brown 1993; CREATE 2007; Freedland 2009).

No effect was observed for Behavior Therapy compared to Person-Centered Therapy on the BDI (Brown 1993) [n=40] and for Cognitive Behaviour Therapy compared to Supportive Stress Management on the HAM-D (Freedland 2009) [n=83]. Interpersonal Psychotherapy showed a beneficial effect compared to Clinical Management on the HAM-D (SMD of mean change scores: -0.23 [-0.46, 0.00]) (CREATE 2007) [n=284] (Analysis 2.1).

2.2 Depression score - medium term:

Effects of psychological interventions compared to another psychological intervention on medium term depression scores (i.e. one to six months after treatment) were investigated in two studies (Brown 1993; Freedland 2009).

Cognitive Behaviour Therapy was not superior to Supportive Stress Management on the HAM-D depression score (Freedland 2009) [n=83]. Behavior Therapy showed a beneficial effect compared to Person-Centered Therapy on the BDI (SMD of final mean scores = -0.65 [-1.28, -0.01]) (Brown 1993) [n=40] (Analysis 2.2).

2.3 Depression score - long term:

Effects of psychological interventions compared to another psychological intervention on long term depression scores (i.e. more than six months after treatment) were investigated in two studies (Brown 1993; Freedland 2009).

Cognitive Behaviour Therapy was not superior compared to Supportive Stress Management on the HAM-D (Freedland 2009) [n=83]. Behavior Therapy was superior to Person-Centered Therapy on the BDI (SMD of final mean scores = -0.69 [-1.33, -0.05]) (Brown 1993) [n=40] (Analysis 2.3).

2.4 Depression remission - short term:

Effects of psychological interventions compared to another psychological intervention on short term depression remission (i.e. end of treatment) were investigated in two studies (CREATE 2007; Freedland 2009).

No effect was observed for Interpersonal Psychotherapy compared to Clinical Management on the HAM-D (CREATE 2007) [n=284] and Cognitive Behaviour Therapy compared to Supportive Stress Management on the same instrument (Freedland 2009) [n=83] (Analysis 2.4).

2.5 Depression remission - medium and long term:

No effect was observed for Cognitive Behaviour Therapy compared to Supportive Stress Management on HAM-D depression remission in one study (Freedland 2009) [n=83] in the medium (i.e. one to six months after end of treatment) and the long term (i.e. more than six months after end of treatment).

2.6 Cardiac events:

Recurrent nonfatal MI, congestive heart failure and recurrent angina pectoris were investigated in one study (CREATE 2007) [n=284] and did not show significantly different rates between Cognitive Behaviour Therapy and Clinical Management.

2.7 Quality of life - short, medium and long term:

Only Freedland (Freedland 2009) [n=83] reported on QoL using mean final scores of the SF-36. No effects were observed for

Cognitive Behaviour Therapy compared to Supportive Stress Management in the short (i.e. end of treatment), medium (i.e. one to six months after end of treatment) and long term (i.e. more than six months after end of treatment).

Comparison 3: Pharmacological intervention versus placebo

Eight trials with a total of 1098 patients studied the effects of a pharmacological intervention versus placebo (CREATE 2007; Freeman 1986; Li 2005; Liu 1999; McFarlane 2001; MIND-IT 2007; SADHART 2002; Strik 2000). Pooling results across different types of pharmacological interventions may level out specific treatment effects. However, due to the lack of trial numbers we combined these studies and conducted analyses of heterogeneity. In case of heterogeneous results, findings of primary studies are descriptively reported.

3.1 Depression score - short term:

Effects of pharmacological interventions on short term depression scores (i.e. end of treatment) were investigated in eight studies (CREATE 2007; Freeman 1986; Li 2005; Liu 1999; McFarlane 2001; MIND-IT 2007; SADHART 2002; Strik 2000). Five trials did not report sufficient information to compute effects sizes (Freeman 1986; Li 2005; Liu 1999; McFarlane 2001; MIND-IT 2007).

The meta-analysis of three studies (CREATE 2007; SADHART 2002; Strik 2000) [n=707] indicated a beneficial effect of pharmacologic interventions versus placebo with an estimate of SMD = -0.24 [-0.38, -0.09] and no between-study heterogeneity (Analysis 3.1). Citalopram showed a beneficial effect compared to placebo on the HAM-D (CREATE 2007) [n=284] (SMD of mean change scores: -0.33 [-0.56, -0.10]). Sertraline (SADHART 2002) [n=369] and Fluoxetine (Strik 2000) [n=54] did not show a beneficial effect compared to placebo.

3.2 Depression remission - short term:

Effects of pharmacological interventions on short term depression remission (i.e. end of treatment) were investigated in three studies (CREATE 2007; MIND-IT 2007; Strik 2000).

The meta-analysis of three studies (CREATE 2007; MIND-IT 2007; Strik 2000) [n=429] indicated a beneficial effect of pharmacologic interventions versus placebo with an estimate of OR = 1.80 [1.18, 2.74] and no between-study heterogeneity (Analysis 3.2). Citalopram showed a beneficial effect compared to placebo on the HAM-D (OR: 1.93 [1.14, 3.25]) (CREATE 2007) [n=284]. Mirtazapine (MIND-IT 2007) [n=91] and Fluoxetine (Strik 2000) [n=54] did not show a beneficial effect compared to placebo.

3.3 All-cause mortality:

All-cause mortality was investigated in four studies (Liu 1999; McFarlane 2001; MIND-IT 2007; SADHART 2002), whereas one did not report sufficient information to compute an effect size (Liu 1999). No deaths occurred in two studies (MIND-IT 2007 [n=91], (McFarlane 2001) [n=27]) and no effect was observed in one trial (SADHART 2002) [n=369] (Analysis 3.3).

3.4 Cardiac events:

Cardiac events were investigated in three studies (CREATE 2007; SADHART 2002; MIND-IT 2007) (Analysis 3.4).

Total cardiovascular events were not significantly decreased in one trial of Sertraline compared to placebo (SADHART 2002) [n=369].

The meta-analysis of two studies (CREATE 2007; SADHART 2002) [n=653] regarding recurrent nonfatal MI indicated a non-significant estimate (Analysis 3.4). Recurrent nonfatal MI was not significantly decreased in two trials of Sertraline (SADHART 2002) [n=369] and Citalopram (CREATE 2007) [n=284].

The meta-analysis of three studies (CREATE 2007; MIND-IT 2007; SADHART 2002) [n=744] regarding congestive heart failure indicated a non-significant estimate (Analysis 3.4). Congestive heart failure was not significantly decreased in three trials of Sertraline (SADHART 2002) [n=369], Mirtazapine (MIND-IT 2007) [n=91] and Citalopram (CREATE 2007) [n=284].

The meta-analysis of three studies (CREATE 2007; MIND-IT 2007; SADHART 2002) [n=744] regarding recurrent angina pectoris indicated a non-significant estimate (Analysis 3.4). Recurrent angina pectoris was not significantly decreased in three trials of Sertraline (SADHART 2002) [n=369], Mirtazapine (MIND-IT 2007) [n=91] and Citalopram (CREATE 2007) [n=284].

Cardiac procedures were not significantly decreased in one trial of Sertraline compared to placebo (SADHART 2002) [n=369].

3.5 Resource utilization:

Resource utilization was investigated in three studies (MIND-IT 2007; SADHART 2002; Strik 2000).

The meta-analysis of three studies (MIND-IT 2007; SADHART 2002; Strik 2000) [n=514] indicated reduced hospitalizations in pharmacological interventions versus placebo (OR = 0.58 [0.39, 0.85]) (Analysis 3.5). Hospitalizations were significantly reduced in a trial of Sertraline (OR = 0.59 [0.38, 0.91] SADHART 2002) [n=369], whereas no effect was observed in the trials of Mirtazapine (MIND-IT 2007) [n=91] and Fluoxetine (Strik 2000) [n=54].

Emergency room visits were significantly reduced in a trial of Sertraline (OR = 0.58 [0.34, 1.00] SADHART 2002) [n=369].

3.6 Healthcare costs:

Healthcare costs excluding antidepressant medication with Sertraline were not significantly reduced in SADHART 2002 [n=369].

3.7 Quality of life - short term:

SADHART 2002 [n=369] investigated quality of life using the QoL Enjoyment and Satisfaction scale (Q-LES-Q) and Medical Outcomes Study Short-Form 36 (SF-36) comparing Sertraline with placebo. Data for the SF-36 were not reported sufficiently to compute effects sizes. No effect was observed for the Q-LES-Q.

Comparison 4: Pharmacological intervention versus pharmacological intervention

One study with 81 patients compared the effects of Paroxetine with Nortriptyline on depression outcomes in CAD patients (Roose 1998). Using the clinician-rated HAM-D no differences were observed between the groups on short term depression scores or short term depression remission (HAM-D < 9).

Subgroup and sensitivity analyses

Subgroup and sensitivity analyses were planned to take into account variables such as type of intervention, population, sex, CAD subtype, assessment of depression diagnosis, time of onset of depression, CAD severity and risk of bias. As yet, these analyses are not feasible due to the lack of primary data. However, Cochrane reviews are planned to be updated on a regular basis. Hence, updates of our review might comprise these analyses.

DISCUSSION

The present systematic review investigated the effects of psychological and pharmacological interventions on depression outcomes, mortality, cardiac events, healthcare costs and health-related quality of life in CAD patients with comorbid depressive disorder. Based on a comprehensive search strategy 16 RCTs fulfilling the inclusion criteria were identified from a set of 3,253 references. Seven trials compared psychological interventions, eight trials pharmacological interventions and one trial had a 2x2 factorial design comprising psychological and pharmacological interventions.

Summary of main results

The results of the present review provide some evidence of a small beneficial effect of psychological interventions compared to usual care on depression severity and remission rates. The psychosocial dimension of health-related QoL showed a small beneficial effect in one trial. No beneficial effects on the reduction of mortality rates, rates of cardiac events, cardiovascular hospitalizations and the physical dimension of health-related quality of life were found. However, the latter findings are in each case based on only one trial.

The evidence base regarding the comparison of psychological interventions versus other psychological interventions is sparse. Based on three trials there seem to be no significant differences between the varying approaches on treatment outcomes.

With regard to the comparison of pharmacological interventions versus placebo the review provides evidence of a small beneficial effect of selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs) on depression outcomes. The evidence regarding hospitalisation rates and emergency room visits is sparse but points in the direction of a beneficial effect of SSRIs compared to placebo. Effects of tricyclic antidepressants (TCAs) were studied in only one small trial where no effect on any of the investigated outcomes was observed. No evidence regarding a positive effect on mortality and cardiac events was found for either class of antidepressants.

The comparison of pharmacological interventions versus other pharmacological interventions comprises only one trial, which showed no evidence of a superior effect of Paroxetine (SSRI) versus Nortriptyline (TCA) regarding depression. No other outcomes relevant to this review were studied in this trial.

Overall, the evidence base is small and does not allow for conclusions about the effects of psychological and pharmacological interventions on most outcomes. Moreover, the settings, samples, interventions and outcome measures are heterogeneous across the included trials, hampering the meta-analytical synthesis of the results. The planned subgroup and sensitivity analyses were not feasible due to the low number of

studies per outcome and methodological heterogeneity between the studies.

Overall completeness and applicability of evidence

The review summarizes the evidence regarding depression treatments in a variety of settings. The included trials comprise different CAD samples (myocardial infarction, angina pectoris, patients undergoing surgery), investigate various types of psychological and pharmacologic interventions and were located in different countries with different health care systems, thus increasing the generalisability of the results. However, the overall completeness is limited and the applicability of evidence restricted due to the following four aspects.

Firstly, most outcomes were investigated insufficiently. For example in psychological interventions mortality, cardiac events and health care costs were investigated in only two trials. Furthermore, QoL was investigated solely in one psychological and one pharmacological trial. Hence, evidence of treatment effects on these outcomes need to be interpreted carefully. Moreover, most trials were underpowered to detect effects of depression treatments on outcomes, which rarely occur such as mortality and specific cardiac events.

Secondly, no studies comparing psychological and pharmacological interventions were found. Consequently, no conclusions can be drawn on the differential effects of these treatment approaches. A meta-analysis of comparative studies on depression treatments in general concludes that pharmacologic treatments are more effective than psychological interventions for dysthymia, while the differences between pharmacologic treatments and psychological interventions are clinically insignificant for major depression (Cuijpers 2008b). The NICE guideline on depression in adults with a chronic physical health problem, however, favours to use psychological interventions as first-line interventions in patients with minor and mild to moderate depression due to adverse effects of antidepressants and the resulting poor risk-benefit ratio (NICE 2009). To what extent this recommendation holds true for depressed CAD patients cannot be decided based on the results of the present review.

Thirdly, the samples of included trials most likely differ regarding subtypes and severity of depression. The included trials comprised participants with a wide range of depressive symptomatology and different etiology (e.g. dysthymia, minor and major depression, adjustment disorder with depressed mood). Depressive disorders were present immediately following the cardiac event or up to 12 months after the event. Furthermore, diverse methods and cut-off points to diagnose depression were used. These mixed samples of depressed patients may have levelled potential effects of depression treatments in patients with specific subtypes of depression. For example, the onset of depression was previously shown to be a moderator of treatment outcomes in CAD patients (Dickens 2008). Another trial on depression treatment in general highlighted differential responses to psychotherapy versus pharmacotherapy in chronic depressed patients with childhood trauma compared to patients without a history of childhood trauma (Nemeroff 2003). Moreover, a recent patient-level meta-analysis concludes that the effects of antidepressant medication is associated with the severity of depressive symptoms showing minimal effects in mild to moderate depression and substantial

benefit in severe depression (Fournier 2010). Sensitivity analyses to examine these differential effects of different depression subtypes were, however, not feasible in the present review, due to the small number of trials per outcome. Thus, conclusions regarding differential treatment effects depending on depression subtypes or severity cannot be drawn.

Finally, the length of psychotherapies examined in the included trials ranged from four sessions (Barth 2005) to 12 sessions (Brown 1993; Freedland 2009). The minimum number of sessions needed to show substantial benefit in psychotherapy, however, should rather be around 20 sessions (Harnett 2010). Hence, the small effects found in the included psychological intervention trials may partly be due to an insufficient number of sessions.

Quality of the evidence

The included trials differed with regard to methodological shortcomings (see [Risk of bias in included studies](#)) and quality of reporting. Many trials did not adequately describe design aspects such as randomisation procedure, allocation concealment and blinding. Furthermore, many trials did not report ITT analyses, missing data was common and selective reporting may have occurred because published protocols were not available for most studies. Low-quality studies have been associated with exaggerated effects (Cuijpers 2010; Moher 1999). Thus, treatment effects summarized in this review may be overestimated due to poor methodological quality of some of the included trials.

Furthermore, most pharmacological studies were sponsored by pharmaceutical companies and were thus judged as having a conflict of interest. It has been shown that studies sponsored by pharmaceutical companies were more likely to have outcomes favouring the sponsor than were studies with other sponsors (Higgins 2008). Furthermore, selective reporting of null findings in industry-funded RCTs of antidepressant trials was previously documented (Turner 2008). Despite our comprehensive search strategy, there may be unpublished trials with non-significant results.

Another bias results from selective reporting of negative findings for prespecified primary outcomes while emphasizing positive results from secondary or new outcomes of antidepressant medication trials (Pigott 2010). We were not able to obtain published protocols for most included trials in this review and thus were not able to judge the risk of selective reporting for these studies.

Finally, meta-analyses regarding depressive outcomes were hampered because depressive symptoms were assessed by a heterogeneous set of clinician-rated tools and self-report questionnaires. Furthermore, the included trials reported either final mean scores or mean change scores from baseline to final assessment or did not report sufficient information to compute effect estimates for these trials.

Potential biases in the review process

In the review process we decided to consider the ENRICHD 2003 and Barth 2005 studies as psychological intervention trials, neglecting the fact that participants in these trials were allowed to receive pharmacologic treatments additional to the assigned psychological intervention. Hence, it remains unclear to which degree the effects in these studies were impacted by additional pharmacological treatments. Similarly, the results might be biased

by our decision to include mixed study samples of CAD patients with depression and/or low social support (ENRICHD 2003) and patients with depression and/or anxiety (Brown 1993; Freeman 1986; McLaughlin 2005). By including these trials with mixed study samples the treatment effects might rather be underestimated than exaggerated in this review.

A second potential bias may result from the translation process of the included Chinese trials (Fang 2003; Li 2005; Liu 1999). Despite our efforts to translate the Chinese trials accurately, the translations did not result in unambiguous and interpretable results. Thus, we decided not to make any judgments regarding risk of bias and not to report outcome data of these trials in the review.

Agreements and disagreements with other studies or reviews

Differences in included trials in this review compared to previous reviews are attributable to our focus on trials investigating depression treatments in depressed CAD patients. Two psychological intervention trials included in the present review (CREATE 2007; ENRICHD 2003) are also included in the review of Van Straten 2010, which investigated the effects of psychological treatments on depressive symptoms in medical diseases. The authors conducted a meta-analysis of 23 studies with 10 different medical diseases and concluded that depressive symptoms could be effectively treated with psychological interventions. Results from our review point in the same direction for CAD patients with depression. However, the evidence is sparse and further studies are needed.

In a recent Cochrane review, Rayner et al. (Rayner 2010) systematically reviewed trials investigating the effects of antidepressant medication in treating depression in physically ill people. In a meta-analysis of 51 studies they concluded that antidepressants are superior to placebo. The evidence of the present review agrees with this finding for the specific group of CAD patients with comorbid depression. Four trials are included in both reviews (CREATE 2007; MIND-IT 2007; SADHART 2002; Strik 2000).

Finally, Brown 1993 and ENRICHD 2003 are trials which are also included in a Cochrane review on the effects of psychological interventions in CAD patients in general (i.e. not restricted to depressed CAD patients) (Rees 2004). Overall, psychological interventions had no effect on total or cardiac mortality and small effects on depression and anxiety (Rees 2004). This results are in line with the findings in the present review.

AUTHORS' CONCLUSIONS

Implications for practice

Psychological interventions and pharmacological interventions with SSRIs in CAD patients may have small yet positive effects on depression outcomes, the former for both short and long term and the latter for short term measures. The NICE guideline on depression in adults with a chronic physical health problem, however, favours to use psychological interventions as first-line interventions in patients with minor and mild to moderate depression due to adverse effects of antidepressants and the resulting poor risk-benefit ratio (NICE 2009). In the primary studies of the present review antidepressant medications compared to placebo were associated with increased rates of dizziness,

diarrhoea, somnolence, sweating, palpitations, libido reduction or sexual difficulties in [CREATE 2007](#), fatigue, appetite changes and weight gain in [MIND-IT 2007](#) as well as nausea and diarrhoea in [SADHART 2002](#). Nortriptyline had a higher rate of adverse events compared to Paroxetine in [Roose 1998](#). These side-effects have to be weighted against the positive effects on depression outcomes when considering to initiate pharmacological treatment in depressed CAD patients.

The evidence for more specific recommendations is scarce. There is no evidence to recommend a specific psychological intervention on the basis of this review. With regard to pharmacological interventions recommendations on benefits and risks of SSRIs versus TCAs for the treatment of depression in CAD patients cannot be made due to the lack of an adequate number of studies investigating TCAs and the small evidence base regarding cardiac end points in the included studies. However, TCAs are viewed as highly cardiotoxic in overdose and may therefore worsen outcome in CAD patients ([Taylor 2008](#), [Lichtman 2008](#)).

Implications for research

The presence of depression in CAD patients is associated with a high additional burden and a negative medical prognosis ([Barth 2004](#); [Baumeister 2005](#), [Baumeister 2011a](#); [Frasure-Smith 2000](#); [Frasure-Smith 2003](#); [Herrmann-Lingen 2006](#); [Ziegelstein 2000](#)). All the more, the rather small improvements in depression outcomes as well as the sparse evidence regarding other outcomes are unsatisfying. Accordingly, there is a need for further trials focusing on outcomes not yet sufficiently examined. This applies at least to medium and long term depression, quality of life, mortality, cardiac events and health care costs. Moreover, to examine differential effects of depression treatments, more comparative trials of psychological and pharmacological interventions are needed. Finally, there is a need for trials of psychological interventions examining the minimum dose needed for a clinical meaningful treatment response.

Another conclusion based on the present review might be that single intervention approaches are insufficient in CAD patients with comorbid depression. Larger effect sizes have been shown for multimodal and collaborative care interventions for depression ([De Maat 2007](#); [Unützer 2002](#)). First results in depressed CAD patients are promising ([Davidson 2010](#); [Rollman 2009](#)) and collaborative care interventions should be further examined in future trials and systematic reviews.

With regard to the small effects of both psychological and pharmacological interventions for depression in CAD patients, however, there might also be the need for a change of the current research agenda away from including all depressed patients regardless of their specific depression subtype and severity ([Baumeister 2009a](#); [Baumeister 2009b](#); [Bech 2010](#); [Pigott 2010](#)). As highlighted above and summarized earlier ([Baumeister 2010c](#); [Lichtenberg 2010](#)) the effectiveness of depression treatments may vary depending on depression subtypes. The evidence of depression treatment in general emphasizes that treatment effectiveness should at least be examined for different levels of depression severity ([Baumeister 2011b](#); [Fournier 2010](#); [NICE 2009](#)) taking clinical significance of depression into account ([Baumeister 2008](#); [Baumeister 2010b](#); [Wakefield 2010](#)). Finally, in CAD patients the need for subtyping depression might particularly apply to the differentiation of new onset depression versus recurrent depression ([Dickens 2008](#)).

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* Indicates the major publication for the study

CHARACTERISTICS OF STUDIES

Characteristics of included studies [ordered by study ID]

Barth 2005

Methods	<p>RCT design: 2-arm parallel-group trial</p> <p>Total N randomised: 59</p> <p>Length of follow-up: No follow-up</p> <p>Analysis: Per-protocol (4 patients in the control group dropped-out)</p>
Participants	<p>Location: Germany</p> <p>Number of study centres and setting: 3 cardiac inpatient rehabilitation clinics</p> <p>CAD criteria: Patients with Myocardial Infarction (MI), Coronary Artery Bypass Grafting (CABG), Percutaneous Transluminal Coronary Angioplasty (PTCA), Unstable Angina Pectoris; diagnosis based on physician's report; time to randomisation unclear</p> <p>Depression criteria: Major depression, dysthymia and depressive adjustment disorder assessed in a 2-stage procedure: 1) Hospital Depression and Anxiety Scale (HADS) and 2) Structured Clinical Interview for DSM-IV in all patients with a HADS score of 17 or higher</p> <p>Other entry criteria: None stated</p> <p>Exclusion criteria: Poor general health, language and cognitive deficits, bipolar disorder, psychotherapy at residence, psychotic symptoms</p> <p>Treatment: 27 (18.5% female, mean age: 60.8 (SD: 11.1))</p> <p>Control: 32 (28.1% female, mean age: 55.6 (SD: 10.1))</p> <p>Comparability of groups: No significant baseline differences</p>
Interventions	<p>Treatment: Brief, individualized, Resource-orientated Psychotherapy (4 to 6 sessions of 50 minutes each) comprising patient education, motivation, goal setting, crisis management, modification of dysfunctional cognitions and behaviour, and written recommendations for further outpatient treatment; patients with severe depression were treated additionally with sertraline</p> <p>Control: Usual care</p> <p>Duration of treatment: 3 to 4 weeks during inpatient rehabilitation</p>
Outcomes	<p>Review outcomes: Bech Rafaelsen Melancholia Scale (BRMS), Beck Depression Inventory (BDI) score, HADS depression score</p> <p>Other outcomes: HADS anxiety score</p>
Funding	<p>Ministry for Education and Research, Germany, Federal Insurance Authority, Baden-Württemberg, Germany</p>
Notes	
Risk of bias	
Bias	Authors' judgement Support for judgement

Barth 2005 (Continued)

Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Low risk	Comment: Randomisation carried out by methodology center (independent from study staff)
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Low risk	Comment: By sealed opaque envelopes
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) All outcomes	Low risk	Comment: Blinded interviewers for BRMS
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	High risk	Quote: Table 2 (p. 6/7): "Only patients with data at both assessments were included in the analysis."
Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Unclear risk	Comment: Outcomes as stated in methods section Comment: No protocol or design paper available
Other bias	Unclear risk	Comment: Possible performance bias with regard to manual adherence of therapists in treatment group, which remains unclear. Furthermore, in inpatient studies therapists and clinic staff are not blind to the patients' allocation, which might impact the inpatient treatment of the intervention and the control group.

Brown 1993

Methods	<p>RCT design: 2-arm parallel group trial</p> <p>Total N randomised: 54</p> <p>Length of follow-up: 15 months</p> <p>Analysis: per-protocol, 14 drop-outs at 15 months</p>
Participants	<p>Location: USA</p> <p>Number of study centres and setting: Patients recruited from 5 cardiac rehabilitation departments of medical centres and by newspaper advertisements</p> <p>CAD diagnosis: Myocardial infarction and/or coronary bypass surgery 4 to 24 months before study; diagnosis based on physician's report; prognosis of no worse than 3.3 based on criteria of the New York Heart Association for moderately compromised cardiac status; stable cardiac status with no medical contraindications to increased physical activity according to their physician's report</p> <p>Depression diagnosis: New-onset depression and/or anxiety on the Schedule of Affective Disorders and Schizophrenia (SADS); scores of >13 on the Beck Depression Inventory (BDI) or >70 on the Symptom Checklist 90-Revised (SCL 90-R)</p> <p>Other entry criteria: Spouses, friends, or relative who were willing to participate; age between 43 and 75 years</p> <p>Exclusion criteria: Unstable medical condition, chronic, severe depression and/or anxiety preceding the cardiac event, suicidal ideation, changes in county residence, unwillingness or inability to include a partner, preexisting psychiatric disorder</p> <p>Treatment N: 20 (45% female, mean age: 63.55 (SD: 7.43))</p> <p>Control N: 20 (10% female, mean age: 57.65 (SD: 7.82))</p>

Brown 1993 (Continued)

Comparability of groups: Significant baseline differences regarding age, religion, SCL 90-R, BDI (with control being more distressed on SCL 90-R and BDI)

Interventions	<p>Treatment: Behavior therapy for patients and their partners by Lewinsohn (weekly 1-hour sessions), in which patients should increase and intensify adaptive behaviors (pleasant activities, relaxation, cognitive restructuring, assertion/anger management, time management) and partners practice positive reinforcement of adaptive behaviors and ignored maladaptive behaviors</p> <p>Control: Person-centered therapy by Rogers (weekly 1-hour sessions)</p> <p>Duration of treatment: 12 sessions (treatment and control)</p>
Outcomes	<p>Outcomes: BDI score</p> <p>Other outcomes: SADS-C, SCL 90-R, Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory-168 (MMPI-168), Pleasant Events Schedule (PES), Unpleasant Events Schedule (UES), Locke Wallace Marital Adjustment Test, Katz Adjustment Scale</p>
Funding	Study supported in part by a grant from the American Heart Association
Notes	Study investigated effects of behavior therapy of patients and their partners on depression <u>and/or</u> anxiety in comparison to person-centered therapy

Risk of bias

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Comment: No details reported
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Comment: No details reported
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) All outcomes	Unclear risk	<p>Comment: Blinding of patients not stated</p> <p>Quote: Regarding Schedule of Affective Disorders and Schizophrenia (SADS) "None of the therapists conducted the post-treatment interviews." (p.203)</p> <p>Comment: All other outcomes patient self-report</p>
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	High risk	<p>Comment: Per-protocol analysis and no drop-out analysis (14 of 54 patients dropped-out from baseline to 15-month follow-up)</p> <p>Comment: Missing data present</p>
Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Unclear risk	<p>Comment: Outcomes reported as stated in the methods section</p> <p>Comment: No protocol or design paper available</p>
Other bias	High risk	<p>Comment: No efforts regarding therapy quality mentioned</p> <p>Comment: Significant baseline imbalance</p>

CREATE 2007

Methods	<p>RCT design: 2 x 2 factorial trial</p> <p>Total N randomised: 284</p>
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CREATE 2007 (Continued)

Length of follow-up: No follow-up

Analysis: Intention-to-treat (ITT) with last-observation-carried-forward applied for missing data

Participants

Location: Canada

Number of study centres and setting: 9 hospitals with patients being referred from physicians, responded to media advertisements or targeted posters

CAD diagnosis: Evidence of CAD based on hospital chart evidence of a previous hospitalization for acute myocardial infarction, or coronary angiographic evidence of 50% or more blockage in at least one major coronary artery, or previous revascularization; patients were not randomised less than 1 week following discharge

Depression diagnosis: Current major depressive episode based on the Structured Clinical Interview for Depression (SCID) with at least 4 weeks' duration; baseline score of >19 on the Hamilton Depression Rating Scale (HAM-D)

Other entry criteria: Adult patients (18 years or older), stable CAD according to physician's clinical judgement

Exclusion criteria: Coronary bypass surgery planned during the next 4 months, Canadian Cardiovascular Society Angina Class (CCS) = 4, bipolar disorder, major depression with psychotic features, or evidence of substance abuse or dependency during the previous 12 months, serious suicide risk based on clinical judgement, use of antidepressants, lithium, or anticonvulsants for mood disorder, currently undergoing any form of psychotherapy, absence of response to a previous adequate trial of citalopram or IPT, two previous unsuccessful trials of treatment for depression for the index episode, lifetime history of early termination (<8 weeks) of citalopram because of adverse events or side effects, lifetime history of early termination (<8 weeks) of two other SSRI antidepressants because of adverse events or side effects, significant cognitive problems, depression due to a general medical condition based on clinical judgement, participation in other trials, inability to speak English or French, unable or willing to comply with the study regimen

Treatment 1 N: 142 (31.0% female, mean age: 59.0 (SD: 9.81))

Treatment 2 N: 142 (23.2% female, mean age: 57.9 (SD: 9.15))

Control 1 N: 142 (18.3 % female, mean age: 57.3 (SD: 8.35))

Control 2 N: 142 (26.1% female, mean age: 58.4 (SD: 9.16))

Comparability of groups: Significantly more women in IPT compared to CM

Interventions

Treatment 1: Interpersonal Psychotherapy (IPT) + CM provided weekly by certified therapists following published treatment guidelines dealing with common problems in CAD patients, including interpersonal conflicts, life transitions, grief, loss, and social isolation

Treatment 2: Citalopram + CM (20-mg/d to 40 mg/d, tablets)

Control 1: Clinical management (CM) with 20- to 25-minute visits including information about depression and medication use, reassurance, and encouragement of adherence to medication and the study protocol, review of side effects and progress

Control 2: Placebo administration matched to citalopram condition

Duration of treatment: 12 weeks

Outcomes

Outcomes: HAM-D score, depression remission (HAM-D ≤ 8), Beck Depression Inventory II (BDI-II), cardiac events

Other outcomes: Interpersonal Relationships Inventory (IPRI), Functional Performance Inventory (FPI), ECG, blood pressure

CREATE 2007 (Continued)

Funding	Canadian Institute of Health Research; Fondation du Centre Hospitalier de l'Université de Montréal; Fondation de l'Institut de Cardiologie de Montréal; Citalopram and matching placebo donated by Lundbeck Canada Inc.	
Notes	Factorial design allowed for two randomised comparisons of main effects: 1) IPT vs. CM, 2) Citalopram vs. Placebo	
Risk of bias		
Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Low risk	Comment: Computer generated block randomisation
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Low risk	Quote: "Concealed in sequentially numbered, site-specific, sealed opaque envelopes stored at the coordinating center until randomization." (p. 369)
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) All outcomes	Low risk	Comment: Pharmacological intervention arm: Therapists, patients, site psychiatrists, telephone raters for primary outcome, and other personnel blinded to assignment regarding Citalopram treatment Comment: Psychological intervention arm: Telephone rater for primary outcome assessment blinded to patients' allocation to IPT vs. CM
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	Low risk	Comment: Intention-to-treat (ITT) analysis with last-observation-carried-forward
Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Low risk	Comment: Primary and secondary outcomes reported in accordance with the study protocol (ISRCTN15858091)
Other bias	High risk	Comment: Conflicting interests: Citalopram and matching placebo donated by Lundbeck Canada Inc.

Doering 2007

Methods	<p>RCT design: 2-arm parallel group trial</p> <p>Total N randomised: Not stated</p> <p>Length of follow-up: 4 months</p> <p>Analysis: Per-protocol</p>
Participants	<p>Location: USA</p> <p>Number of study centres and setting: 2 urban medical centres</p> <p>CAD diagnosis: Patients undergoing first-time Coronary Artery Bypass Grafting (CABG); time to randomization not specified</p> <p>Depression diagnosis: Patients with Mini-Mental State Examination (MMSE) score of ≥ 24 were interviewed with the Diagnostic Interview and Structured Hamilton (DISH); diagnosis of major depression during inpatient treatment or 2 to 4 weeks after hospital admission or minor depression at both interviews</p> <p>Other entry criteria: ≤ 75 years, English-speaking, available for 6 months follow-up</p>

Doering 2007 (Continued)

Exclusion criteria: Malignancies or autoimmune disorders

Treatment N: 7 (100% female, mean age: 58.6 (SD: 7.6))

Control N: 8 (100% female, mean age: 60.9 (SD: 9.4))

Comparability of groups: Treatment patients with a significantly higher rate of depression history

Interventions	<p>Treatment: Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (weekly 1-hour sessions) by a trained nurse therapist including establishing therapeutic relationship, behavioral activation, active problem-solving, identification of automatic thoughts, reframing automatic thoughts, learning self-therapy and relapse prevention</p> <p>Control: Usual care comprising usual medical and nursing follow-up after CABG and an assessment by a psychiatrist who recommended individualised treatment options</p> <p>Duration of treatment: 8 weeks</p>
Outcomes	<p>Review outcomes: Beck Depression Inventory (BDI) score</p> <p>Other outcomes: Postoperative illnesses measured by a Modified Health Review (MHR), Natural killer cell cytotoxicity (NK cytotoxicity), Interleukin (IL-6), C-reactive protein (CRP)</p>
Funding	Not stated
Notes	Study investigated depressed post-CABG women

Risk of bias

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Comment: No details reported
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Comment: No details reported
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) All outcomes	Low risk	Comment: Outcome assessed by a blinded research assistant
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	High risk	Quote: "Only those patients who completed all study measures were included in this report." (p. 19)
Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Unclear risk	<p>Comment: Outcomes reported as stated in the methods section</p> <p>Comment: No protocol or design paper available</p>
Other bias	Unclear risk	<p>Comment: No efforts regarding nurse therapists protocol adherence reported</p> <p>Comment: Usual care comprised psychiatrists' recommendations for individualised treatment options, but utilised treatments of control patients were not assessed</p>

ENRICHD 2003

Methods	<p>RCT design: 2-arm parallel-group trial</p> <p>Total N randomised: 2481</p>
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ENRICHD 2003 (Continued)

Length of follow-up: Evaluations after 6 months and annually thereafter (follow-up duration 18 to 54 months)

Analysis: Intention-to-treat (93 treatment patients did not receive intervention)

Participants

Location: USA

Number of study centres and setting: Outpatients from 73 hospitals affiliated with 8 clinical centres

CAD criteria: Acute myocardial infarction (MI) with elevation in one or more biomarker as well as MI-compatible symptoms or characteristic ECG ST-T changes or new Q waves; randomisation within 28 days after MI

Depression criteria: Major depression or dysthymia diagnosis based on the Depression Interview and Structured Hamilton (DISH) according to modified DSM-IV criteria

Other entry criteria: Low perceived social support assessed through the ENRICHD Social Support Instrument (ESSI)

Exclusion criteria: Patients with acute MI following Percutaneous Coronary Intervention (PCI) or Coronary Artery Bypass Grafting (CABG), receiving psychotherapy or taking an antidepressant for longer than 14 days but remained depressed, noncardiac conditions likely to be fatal within 1 year, too ill to participate, participating in another trial, major psychiatric disorder (including schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, severe dementia, or active substance abuse), at risk for suicide, refusal of participation or physician disallowed participation, could not be enrolled within 28 days, inaccessible for intervention or follow-up

Treatment: 1238 (43% female, mean age: 61 (SD: 12.6))

Control: 1243 (44% female, mean age: 61 (SD: 12.5))

Comparability of groups: No significant baseline differences except for the use of angiotensin-converting enzyme (ACE) inhibitors

Interventions

Treatment: Individual (at least 6 1-hour sessions weekly) and group (weekly 2-hour sessions) Cognitive Behavior Therapy (CBT) by Beck supplemented with techniques based on social learning theory for patients with low perceived social support; patients with scores >24 on the Hamilton Rating Scale for Depression (HAM-D) or those with less than 50% reduction in Beck Depression Inventory (BDI) score after 5 weeks referred to study psychiatrist for consideration of pharmacotherapy with sertraline (50 to 200 mg/d)

Control: Usual care

Duration of treatment: Individual behavioral intervention up to 6 months with additional 12 weeks for group therapy, adjunctive pharmacotherapy up to 12 months

Outcomes

Review outcomes: Combined end point of all-cause mortality and nonfatal reinfarction, all-cause mortality, cardiovascular mortality, revascularization procedures, cardiovascular hospitalizations, depression (change in HRSD and BDI scores from baseline to 6 months), health-related quality of life (SF-12 PCS and MCS)

Other outcomes: Social support and social networks, life satisfaction, change in cardiac risk factor profile, perceived stress, self-efficacy

Funding

National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute; Pfizer Inc.

Notes

Mixed study sample (patients with depression and/or low perceived social support were enrolled)

Risk of bias
Bias
Authors' judgement
Support for judgement

ENRICHD 2003 (Continued)

Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Low risk	Comment: Automated telephone randomization system using permuted blocks with varying sizes, stratified by clinical center; test for selection bias potentially resulting from unmasking of previous assignments (participants and interventionists were unblinded) with nonsignificant results
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Low risk	Comment: Allocation obtained by an automated telephone randomization system
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) All outcomes	Low risk	<p>Comment: Participants and interventionists unmasked</p> <p>Quote: "Staff who collected, verified, or classified end point data or follow-up assessments were masked as much as possible" (Berkman, 2003).</p> <p>Quote: "End point data collection, verification and classification, and follow-up psychosocial assessments are conducted by staff who are blinded to treatment assignment." (Hoskings, 2000)</p>
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	Low risk	Comment: Depression outcomes analysed per protocol, all other outcomes ITT
Selective reporting (reporting bias)	High risk	Comment: Results of all main outcomes reported as described in the design papers of the trial except for change in cardiac risk factor profile, perceived stress and self-efficacy
Other bias	High risk	<p>Comment: Therapy quality and adherence to treatment protocol were monitored by the Beck Institute</p> <p>Comment: QoL was not assessed at baseline and it thus remains unclear whether or not QoL was balanced in the two groups at baseline</p> <p>Comment: Conflicting interests: Funded by Pfizer (Inc.)</p>

Fang 2003

Methods	<p>RCT design: Parallel-group trial</p> <p>Total N randomised: 57</p> <p>Length of follow-up: 8 weeks</p> <p>Analysis: unclear</p>
Participants	<p>Location: China</p> <p>Number of study centres: Patients selected from 2 hospitals</p> <p>CAD diagnosis: Myocardial infarction (MI) confirmed by an electronic radiograph</p> <p>Depression diagnosis: Sung's self-rating depressive scale (SDS) score > 43</p> <p>Other entry criteria: Sung's self-rating anxiety scale (SAS) score > 38</p> <p>Exclusion criteria: unclear</p> <p>Treatment N: 27 (sex and age distribution unclear)</p> <p>Control N: 30 (sex and age distribution unclear)</p>

Fang 2003 (Continued)

Comparability of the groups: unclear

Interventions	<p>Treatment: Health education and psychological intervention in addition to standard medication. Health education included basic myocardial infarction knowledge and related subjects such as healthy diet, exercise, cholesterol control. Psychological intervention comprised support (5 times a week, 30 - 40 minutes per meeting), various psychological treatments tailored according to the patients needs (twice a week for 30 - 40 minutes), and mind and body relaxation time using breathing exercises, and various relaxation techniques (twice daily, 15 - 20 minutes)</p> <p>Control: Usual care</p> <p>Duration of treatment: 8 weeks</p>
Outcomes	<p>Review outcomes: Sung's self-rating depressive scale (SDS) score</p> <p>Other outcomes: Sung's self-rating anxiety scale (SAS) score, New York Heart Association (NYHA) functional class, Left Ventricular Ejection Fraction (LVEF)</p>
Funding	unclear
Notes	

Risk of bias

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Unclear risk	not applicable
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Unclear risk	not applicable
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) All outcomes	Unclear risk	not applicable
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	Unclear risk	not applicable
Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Unclear risk	not applicable
Other bias	Unclear risk	not applicable

Freedland 2009

Methods	<p>RCT design: 3-arm parallel-group trial</p> <p>Total N randomised: 123</p> <p>Length of follow-up: 6 months</p> <p>Analysis: Intention-to-treat (ITT)</p>
Participants	Location: USA

Freedland 2009 (Continued)

Number of study centres and setting: Patients who had undergone Coronary Artery Bypass Surgery (CABG) from 3 hospitals

CAD diagnosis: Coronary Artery Bypass Surgery (CABG), randomisation within 12 months after surgery

Depression diagnosis: Beck Depression Inventory (BDI) score of 10 or higher and current major or minor depressive episode assessed with the Depression Interview and Structured Hamilton (DISH)

Other entry criteria: Patients aged 21 years or older

Exclusion criteria: Severe psychiatric comorbidities (schizophrenia or bipolar disorder), active alcoholism or substance abuse, severe cognitive impairment, noncardiac illnesses with a poor 1-year prognosis, being too medically ill or living too far away to participate, being unable to communicate in English, or for receiving ongoing psychotherapeutic services

Treatment 1 (CBT) N: 41 (56% female, mean age: 62 (SD: 11))

Treatment 2 (SSM) N: 42 (50% female, mean age: 59 (SD: 10))

Control N: 40 (43% female, mean age: 61 (SD: 9))

Comparability of groups: Proportion of African American participants in treatment 2 (SSM) significantly higher than in the other arms

Interventions	<p>Treatment 1: Individual Cognitive Behavior Therapy (CBT) (weekly 1-hour sessions) including target problem identification, problem solving, behavioral activation, cognitive techniques (challenging distressing automatic thoughts, changing dysfunctional attitudes), self-therapy and relapse-prevention skills</p> <p>Treatment 2: Supportive Stress Management (SSM) (weekly 1-hour sessions) including patient education regarding stress and coping, practice in progressive muscle relaxation training, controlled breathing and relaxing imagery</p> <p>Control: Usual care for depression</p> <p>Duration of treatment: 12 weeks</p>
Outcomes	<p>Review outcomes: Hamilton Depression Rating Scale depression remission (HAM-D < 7), HAM-D score, BDI depression remission, BDI score, Medical Outcomes Study Short-Form 36-item Health Survey (SF-36)</p> <p>Other outcomes: Beck Anxiety Inventory, Beck Hopelessness Scale, Perceived Stress Scale, Heart Surgery Questionnaire (HSQ), Digit Symbol test, part B of the Trailmaking Test, a paragraph recall test, and the Short Blessed Test to assess cognitive impairment after CABG surgery</p>
Funding	National Institute of Mental Health, USA

Notes

Risk of bias

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Low risk	Comment: Computer-generated random allocation sequence with block sizes of 3 and 6
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Low risk	Comment: Concealed in sealed envelopes and revealed to the study coordinator immediately after the participant completed all of the baseline assessments
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias)	Low risk	Quote: "The outcome assessors were masked to the participants' group assignments" (p. 389)

Freedland 2009 (Continued)

All outcomes

Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	Low risk	Quote: Missing data "plausibly missing at random" (p. 389) Comment: Missing outcome data imputed
Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Low risk	Comment: Outcomes reported in accordance to the study protocol
Other bias	Low risk	

Freeman 1986

Methods	<p>RCT design: 2-arm parallel-group trial</p> <p>Total N randomised: 107</p> <p>Length of follow-up: no follow-up</p> <p>Analysis: Per-protocol (60 of 107 patients completed the trial)</p>
Participants	<p>Location: USA</p> <p>Number of study centres and setting: Patients from 1 hospital</p> <p>CAD diagnosis: Patients undergoing Coronary Artery Bypass Surgery (CABG) (assessment method and time to randomisation not specified)</p> <p>Depression diagnosis: A score of 13 or greater on the Center for Epidemiological Studies - Depression Scale (CES-D) and/or a score of 36 or greater on the Spielberger State Anxiety Inventory (SSAI); presence of clinically significant anxiety or depression was confirmed by a semistructured psychiatric interview</p> <p>Other entry criteria: Under 65 years of age</p> <p>Exclusion criteria: Females of childbearing potential, patients with a history of sensitivity to benzodiazepines, patients with prior or existing evidence for substance abuse, antisocial personality, psychosis, significant uncontrolled systemic disease, cerebral infarction, dementia, or insufficient English</p> <p>Treatment N: 32 (sex and age distribution unclear)</p> <p>Control N: 28 (sex and age distribution unclear)</p> <p>Comparability of groups: Treatment group significantly higher anxiety scores at baseline; no further information regarding comparability of groups</p>
Interventions	<p>Treatment: Alprazolam (tablets, 2.5mg/d at bedtime, maximum dose 4.5mg/d)</p> <p>Control: Placebo</p> <p>Duration of treatment: 1 month</p>
Outcomes	<p>Review outcomes: CES-D score, Zung Self-Rating Depression Scale (Zung SDS) score</p> <p>Other Outcomes: SSAI score, Zung Self-Rating Anxiety Scale (Zung SAS), Physician's Global Impression Scale, signs and symptoms of psychosis, cognitive dysfunction, depression, anxiety, and somatization (psychiatric semistructured interviews)</p>
Funding	Upjohn Company

Freeman 1986 (Continued)

Notes Mixed study sample (patients with depression and/or anxiety)

Risk of bias

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Comment: No details reported
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Comment: No details reported
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) All outcomes	Unclear risk	Comment: No details reported
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	High risk	Comment: Only 60 of 107 patients completed the trial Comment: 22 early dropouts in the alprazolam group (with noncompleters being less distressed than completers preoperatively) Comment: 25 early dropouts in the placebo group (with noncompleters being more distressed than completers preoperatively)
Selective reporting (reporting bias)	High risk	Comment: No protocol or design paper available Comment: Signs and symptoms of psychosis, cognitive dysfunction, depression, anxiety, and somatization (psychiatric semistructured interviews) assessed but not reported
Other bias	High risk	Comment: Possible selection bias: 60% of 459 patients met entrance criteria, but only 23% were included. "The remainder were excluded from entering the drug trial by semistructured interview or were rendered ineligible because of surgical complications or withdrawal of consent." (p. 39) Comment: Possible baseline imbalance: Treatment group significantly higher anxiety scores at baseline; no further information regarding comparability of groups Comment: Conflicting interests: Funding through Upjohn Company

Li 2005

Methods	RCT design: Parallel-group trial Total N randomised: 87 Length of follow-up: 6 weeks Analysis: unclear (2 cases lost in the treatment group, 3 cases lost in the control group)
Participants	Location: China Number of study centres and setting: Hospitalized patients (number of centres unclear) CAD diagnosis: Patients after Coronary Artery Bypass Grafting (CABG) Depression diagnosis: Self-rated Hamilton Depression Rating Scale (HAM-D) score >18

Li 2005 (Continued)

Other entry criteria: unclear

Exclusion criteria: unclear

Treatment N: 43 (sex and age distribution unclear)

Control N: 39 (sex and age distribution unclear)

Comparability of groups: unclear

Interventions	Treatment: St. John's Wort extract (300 mg, 3 times a day)
	Control: Placebo
	Duration of treatment: 6 weeks
Outcomes	Review outcomes: HAM-D score
	Other outcomes: Ventricular function (Tei-Index), side-effects
Funding	unclear
Notes	

Risk of bias

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Unclear risk	not applicable
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Unclear risk	not applicable
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) All outcomes	Unclear risk	not applicable
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	Unclear risk	not applicable
Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Unclear risk	not applicable
Other bias	Unclear risk	not applicable

Liu 1999

Methods	RCT design: Parallel-group trial
	Total N randomised: unclear
	Length of follow-up: 4 weeks
	Analysis: unclear
Participants	Location: China

Liu 1999 (Continued)

Number of study centres and setting: Patients from 1 hospital

CAD diagnosis: Myocardial infarction (MI) as confirmed by electrocardiography

Depression diagnosis: Center for Epidemiologic Studies Depression Scale (CES-D), Hamilton Depression Rating Scale (HAMD), diagnosis according to Chinese Classification of Mental Disorders, Second Edition, Revised (CCMD-2-R)

Other entry criteria: unclear

Exclusion criteria: unclear

Treatment N: 31 (32% female, mean age unclear)

Control N: 37 (27% female, mean age unclear)

Comparability of groups: No significant differences

Interventions	Treatment: Fluoxetine Control: Placebo Duration of treatment: 4 weeks
Outcomes	Review outcomes: HAM-D, Mortality Other Outcomes: Ventricular Tachycardia (VT), Heart Rate Variability (HRV)
Funding	unclear

Notes

Risk of bias

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Unclear risk	not applicable
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Unclear risk	not applicable
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) All outcomes	Unclear risk	not applicable
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	Unclear risk	not applicable
Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Unclear risk	not applicable
Other bias	Unclear risk	not applicable

McFarlane 2001

Methods RCT design: 2-arm parallel-group trial

McFarlane 2001 (Continued)

Total N randomised: 38

Length of follow-up: No follow-up

Analysis: Per-protocol (27 completers, 6 drop-outs in the treatment group, 5 drop-outs in the control group)

Participants	Location: Canada Number of study centres and setting: Patients admitted to 1 coronary care unit CAD diagnosis: Acute myocardial infarction; assessment method and time to randomisation not specified Depression diagnosis: Score > 15 on the Inventory to Diagnose Depression (IDD) questionnaire on two occasions (just before hospital discharge and two weeks later) Other entry criteria: None stated Exclusion criteria: PredischARGE 24-hour Holter recordings showing either atrial fibrillation or ventricular ectopic beats greater than 100 per hour, congestive heart failure, any life-threatening comorbid condition, inability to complete the questionnaire, and taking antidepressant medication Treatment N: 12 (33% female, mean age: 56 (SD: 11)) Control N: 15 (47% female, mean age: 56 (SD: 12)) Comparability of groups: No significant baseline differences
Interventions	Treatment: Sertraline (50 mg/d) Control: Placebo Duration of treatment: 22 weeks
Outcomes	Review outcomes: IDD depression score Other outcomes: Time dependent changes in both time and frequency domain parameters of Heart Rate Variability (HRV) (heart rate, SD of all 24-hour N-N intervals (SDNN), root mean square of the SD of successive N-N intervals (rMSSD), LF/HF ratio, LF power nu)
Funding	Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario, Canada
Notes	

Risk of bias

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Comment: No details reported
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Comment: No details reported
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) All outcomes	Unclear risk	Comment: No details reported
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias)	High risk	Comment: 11 drop-outs (3 had side-effects, 7 non-compliant, 1 with ectopy)

McFarlane 2001 (Continued)

All outcomes

Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Unclear risk	Comment: No protocol or design paper available Comment: Outcomes reported according to methods section
Other bias	High risk	Comment: Inconsistent description of results (p. 619 and p. 620)

McLaughlin 2005

Methods	RCT design: 2-arm parallel group trial Total N randomised: 100 Length of follow-up: 4 months Analysis: Per-protocol (8 treatment patients dropped out, 12 control patients (1 death) dropped out)
Participants	Location: USA Number of study centres and setting: Patients with Acute Coronary Syndrome (ACS) from 2 Hospitals CAD diagnosis: Acute Coronary Syndrome (ACS) assessed by medical chart review in the coronary care unit; time to randomisation not specified Depression diagnosis: Score of 7 and more on either of the subscales of the Hospital Anxiety Depression Scale (HADS) Other entry criteria: 35 years of age or older, able to speak English, access to a touch-tone phone Exclusion criteria: Mental health care in the prior 3 months, psychoactive drug use during the past year, and diagnosis of substance abuse during the past year Treatment N: 45 (31.1% female, mean age: 59.9 (SD: 10.2)) Control N: 34 (35.3% female, mean age: 60.7 (SD: 9.8)) Comparability of the groups: Significantly higher anger scores among females in the treatment group, significantly more patients with Myocardial Infarction (MI) in the treatment group
Interventions	Treatment: 6 telephone counselling sessions (30 minutes each) with clinicians (psychiatrist, clinical psychologist, internist) comprising review of common fears experienced by those living with chronic medical conditions and identification and management of barriers to adjustment to medical illness; patients with HADS score > 15 were referred for emergent care Control: Usual care (received a booklet on coping with cardiac illness typical of those given at hospital discharge and were instructed to contact their primary care physician if they experienced any warning signs of depression; advised to continue follow-up with their primary care and specialist physicians) Duration of treatment: 8 weeks
Outcomes	Review outcomes: HADS depression score Other outcomes: HADS anxiety score, Work and Social Adjustment Scale (WSAS), State-Trait Anger Expression Inventory (STAXI), Clinical Global Impressions (CGI) scale
Funding	National Institute of Mental Health, USA; Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
Notes	Mixed study sample (patients with depression and/or anxiety)

McLaughlin 2005 (Continued)

Risk of bias

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Low risk	Quote: "by coin flip" (p. 1085 in McLaughlin et al., 2005)
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	High risk	Quote: "The study coordinator conducted the coin flip and assigned patients to a treatment arm when she contacted study participants by telephone and enrolled consenting participants." (p. 540 in Bambauer et al., 2005)
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) All outcomes	High risk	Comment: Patient self-report (HADS)
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	High risk	Comment: The authors describe that multiple imputation methods were used to examine if data were missing at random. But all analyses were reported for the final cohort of 79 patients
Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Unclear risk	Comment: Outcomes consistent in methods and results sections Comment: No protocol and design paper available
Other bias	High risk	Comment: Results reported inconsistently (discrepancy between text and figure regarding HADS score)

MIND-IT 2007

Methods	<p>RCT design: Nested, 2-arm parallel-group trial</p> <p>Total N randomised: 91</p> <p>Length of follow-up: No follow-up</p> <p>Analysis: Intention-to-treat (10 drop-outs in the intervention group compared to 3 in the placebo group during the first 8-week acute treatment phase, 23 drop-outs in the intervention group compared to 15 in the placebo group during the entire treatment (24 weeks))</p>
Participants	<p>Location: Netherlands</p> <p>Number of study centres and setting: Patients with a Myocardial Infarction (MI) from 8 hospitals</p> <p>CAD criteria: MI with typical clinical picture, increase of cardiac enzymes, electrocardiographic (ECG) changes and chest pain for > 20 minutes; time to randomisation 3 to 12 months (to exclude adjustment disorders)</p> <p>Depression criteria: 2-stage procedure, in which those with 1) score of 10 or more on the Beck Depression Inventory (BDI) were 2) interviewed with the Composite International Diagnostic Interview (CIDI) for major or minor depression diagnosis (psychiatrist confirmed CIDI diagnosis)</p> <p>Other entry criteria: age >= 18 years</p> <p>Exclusion criteria: Occurrence of MI while hospitalized for another reason, except for unstable angina pectoris, lacking capability to participate in study procedures, any disease likely to influence short-term survival, already receiving psychiatric treatment for depressive disorder, participation in any clinical trial that might intervene with the study, hyperthyroidism, suicidality</p> <p>Treatment N: 47 (12.8% female, mean age: 56.6 (SD: 11.1))</p>

MIND-IT 2007 (Continued)

Control N: 44 (18.2% female, mean age: 57.9 (SD: 9.7))

Comparability of groups: No significant baseline differences

Interventions	Treatment: Mirtazapine (30 to 45 mg/d); patients who did not respond and patients with relapse were offered open treatment with citalopram Control: Placebo Duration of treatment: 24 weeks (8 weeks acute plus 16 weeks continuation treatment)
Outcomes	Review outcomes: Hamilton Depression Rating Scale (HAM-D) score, depression remission (HAM-D ≤ 7), BDI score, depression scale of the Symptom Checklist 90 item (dSCL-90), cardiac events Other outcomes: Clinical Global Impression (CGi), side effects, concurrent medication, weight, heart rate, blood pressure, PR interval, QRS interval, QT interval
Funding	Netherlands Heart Foundation; Organon (Netherlands); Lundbeck (Denmark)
Notes	MIND-IT trial investigated antidepressant treatment in general versus usual care in patients following myocardial infarction (N = 331). The intervention arm consisted of double-blind Mirtazapine, open pharmacological treatment, non-pharmacological treatment or no treatment. The care as usual arm comprised pharmacological treatment, non-pharmacological treatment or no treatment. Data of the nested trial investigating mirtazapine versus placebo (n = 91) was used in this review due to the pre-defined comparisons (i.e. pharmacological intervention vs. placebo).

Risk of bias

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Low risk	Comment: Central randomization service (computer-generated blocks of four)
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Comment: No details reported
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) All outcomes	Low risk	Quote: "double-blind" (p. 607)
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	Low risk	Comment: ITT with last observation carried forward
Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Unclear risk	Comment: Results and methods section consistent Comment: No protocol or design paper available
Other bias	High risk	Comment: Conflicting interests: Funded by Organon (Netherlands) and Lundbeck (Denmark)

Roose 1998

Methods	RCT design: 2-arm parallel-group trial Total N randomised: 81 Length of follow-up: No follow-up
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Roose 1998 (Continued)

Analysis: Intention-to-treat (4 Paroxetine patients discontinued, 10 Nortriptyline patients discontinued)

Participants	<p>Location: USA</p> <p>Number of study centres and setting: Outpatients from 4 hospitals</p> <p>CAD criteria: Myocardial infarction (MI), coronary artery bypass grafting, coronary angioplasty, positive stress test, or angiographic evidence of a 75% or greater luminal narrowing of a major coronary artery; time to randomisation unclear</p> <p>Depression criteria: Meeting DSM-IV criteria for major depressive disorder, unipolar subtype, with a score of 16 or greater on the 17-item Hamilton Rating Scale for Depression (HAM-D)</p> <p>Other entry criteria: Age \geq 18</p> <p>Exclusion criteria: MI within the past 3 months, a baseline QTc interval of 460 milliseconds or greater, unstable or crescendo angina, receiving drugs with class 1 antiarrhythmic activity or warfarin</p> <p>Treatment 1 N: 41 (12% female, mean age: 57.8 (SD: 11.0))</p> <p>Treatment 2 N: 40 (22% female, mean age: 57.9 (SD: 12.7))</p> <p>Comparability of groups: No significant baseline differences</p>	
Interventions	<p>Treatment 1: Paroxetine (+ dummy placebo at night) (age < 65: 20 mg/d for the first 3 weeks; age > 65: 10 mg/d for the first week, 20 mg/d for week 2 and 3; if no response (HAM-D reduction 50% or HAM-D \leq 8) 30 mg/d at week 4 and 40 mg/d at end of week 5)</p> <p>Treatment 2: Nortriptyline (+ dummy placebo in the morning) (25 mg for the first 2 days; 50 mg on day 3; on day 7 plasma level measurement and adjustment of the dose to achieve a nortriptyline plasma level between 203 and 456 nmol/L (80-120 ng/mL))</p> <p>Duration of treatment: 6 weeks</p>	
Outcomes	<p>Review outcomes: HAM-D depression score, depression remission rate (HAM-D score of 8 or less)</p> <p>Other outcomes: Heart rate, blood pressure, PR interval, QRS interval, QT interval, heart rate variability (SDNN, pNN50), adverse events</p>	
Funding	Smith-Kline Beecham Pharmaceuticals (GlaxoSmithKline)	
Notes		
Risk of bias		
Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Low risk	Quote: "randomized by permuted blocks of 10" (p. 288)
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Comment: No details reported
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) All outcomes	Low risk	Quote: "Double dummy technique" (p. 288)
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	Low risk	Comment: ITT with last observation carried forward

Roose 1998 (Continued)

Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Unclear risk	Comment: Results and methods section consistent Comment: No protocol or design paper available
Other bias	High risk	Comment: Conflicting interests: Funded by Smith-Kline Beecham Pharmaceuticals

SADHART 2002

Methods	RCT design: 2-arm parallel-group trial Total N randomised: 369 Length of follow-up: No follow up Analysis: Intention-to-treat (53 discontinued treatment, 46 discontinued placebo)
Participants	Location: USA, Europe, Canada, Australia Number of study centres and setting: Outpatients from 40 cardiology centres and psychiatry clinics CAD criteria: Patients hospitalized for Myocardial Infarction (MI) or unstable angina in the past 30 days. Criteria for acute MI: at least 1 criterion from each of the following 2 categories: Category A: 1) creatine kinase isoenzyme MB (CK-MB) level greater than the upper limit of normal, 2) CK or troponin T or troponin I level more than 2 times the upper limit of normal, 3) a total lactate dehydrogenase (LDH) level more than 1.5 times the upper limit of normal (with LDH 1 greater than LDH 2). Category B: 1) typical ischemic symptoms (chest pain or shortness of breath) lasting for more than 10 minutes, 2) ECG evidence of ischemic ST-segment depression, ST-segment elevation, or new pathological Q waves. Criteria for unstable angina: 1) experienced angina of anginal equivalent symptoms at rest, with episodes lasting for at least 10 minutes and leading to hospitalization, and had ECG documentation of transient ST-segment elevation or depression of more than 0.5 mm, or had T wave inversion of greater than 1 mm within 12 hours of an episode of chest pain; 2) were hospitalized for symptoms of unstable angina and had known CAD with a documented history of a prior MI, had undergone a prior revascularization procedure, or had documented coronary artery stenosis greater than 75% in one of the major epicardial vessels. Depression criteria: Major depression according to structured Diagnostic Interview Schedule (DIS) for DSM-IV, Beck Depression Inventory (BDI) score of 10 or greater Other entry criteria: None Exclusion criteria: Uncontrolled hypertension, cardiac surgery anticipated during the next 6 months, MI or unstable angina developed less than 3 months after CABG, resting heart rate of less than 40/min, MI or unstable angina of nonatherosclerotic etiology, Killip class III or IV status, persistent clinically significant laboratory abnormalities, renal dysfunction, hepatic dysfunction, other significant noncardiac disease, women of childbearing potential not using adequate contraception, current use of class 1 antiarrhythmic medications, use of reserpine, guanethidine, clonidine, methyldopa, anticonvulsants, neuroleptics, antidepressants, benzodiazepines, initiation of psychotherapy in the 3 months prior to study entry, alcohol or substance abuse or dependence in past 6 months, psychotic symptoms, history of psychosis, bipolar disorder, organic brain syndrome, dementia, significant suicide risk Treatment N: 186 (37% female, mean age: 56.8 (SD: 11.1)) Control N: 183 (36% female, mean age: 57.6 (SD: 10.4)) Comparability of groups: No significant baseline differences
Interventions	Treatment: Sertraline 50 mg/d for the first 6 weeks, up to 100 mg/d for weeks 6-10, up to 150 mg/d for weeks 10-12, up to 200 mg/d for weeks 12-24

SADHART 2002 (Continued)

Control: Placebo

Duration of treatment: 24 weeks

Outcomes

Review outcomes: Cardiac events, mortality, Hamilton Rating Scale for Depression (HAM-D) score, direct medical costs (inpatient hospitalizations, emergency room visits, cardiac procedures), quality of life (Quality of Life Enjoyment and Satisfaction scale (Q-LES-Q) and Medical Outcomes Study Short-Form 36 (SF-36))

Other outcomes: Left Ventricular Dysfunction (LVEF), heart rate, blood pressure, standard ECG, heart rate variability, Clinical Global Impression -Severity (CGI-S) and -Improvement (CGI-I), ventricular premature complexes

Funding

Pfizer Inc.; Suzanne C. Murphy Foundation; Thomas and Caroline Royster Research Fund; Perry and Martin Granoff Family Foundation

Notes
Risk of bias

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Comment: No details reported
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Comment: No details reported
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) All outcomes	Low risk	Quote: "double-blind" (p. 702)
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	Low risk	Comment: Last observation carried forward
Selective reporting (reporting bias)	Unclear risk	Comment: No protocol or design paper available
Other bias	High risk	Comment: Conflicting interests: Funded by Pfizer Inc.

Strik 2000
Methods

RCT design: 2-arm parallel-group trial

Total N randomised: 54

Length of follow-up: No follow-up

Analysis: Intention-to-treat for primary outcomes (9 withdrawn in control, 5 withdrawn in treatment group), per-protocol for cardiologic safety variables

Participants

Location: Netherlands

Number of study centres and setting: Patients from 2 hospitals

CAD criteria: Myocardial Infarction (MI) diagnosed by a cardiologist with a clinical picture typical of MI, electrocardiographic changes specific for MI, and a maximum plasma concentration of aspartate

Strik 2000 (Continued)

aminotransferase (ASAT) of twice the upper normal range (80 U/liter); enrolment 3 to 12 months after MI

Depression criteria: Patients with a score above the cut-off on the SCL-90 Depression Scale (>22 for men and > 28 for women) were interviewed with the Schedules for Clinical Assessment in Neuropsychiatry; patients meeting DSM-III-R criteria for major depressive episode and having a Hamilton Rating Scale for Depression (HAM-D) score of >17 were included

Other entry criteria: 18 to 75 years

Exclusion criteria: Any concurrent psychosocial or therapeutic intervention, psychotic symptomatology, a second psychiatric diagnosis, history of mania, current pregnancy or lactation, life-threatening noncardiac physical illness, concurrent use of psychotropic drugs, hypersensitivity to fluoxetine, liver or severe kidney dysfunction, right ventricular filling pressure >30 mm Hg and a low systolic volume or an ATVI <10 cm

Treatment N: 27 (22% female, mean age: 54.1 (SD: 11.3))

Control N: 27 (37% female, mean age: 58.7 (SD: 10.1))

Comparability of groups: No significant baseline differences

Interventions	Treatment: Fluoxetine (acute treatment period of 9 weeks, and continuation period of 16 weeks; 20 to 60 mg/d) Control: Placebo Duration of treatment: Maximum of 25 weeks
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Outcomes	Review outcomes: Depression remission defined as a HAM-D end-point score of < 7, death, rehospitalization due to cardiac events Other outcomes: SCL-90 Hostility Scale score, concurrent use of medications, cognitive performance, non-cardiac life-threatening disease, blood pressure, electrocardiographic variables (heart rate, PR interval, QRS interval, QT interval), echocardiographic variables (LVEF, ATVI, E/A ratio)
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Funding	Eli Lilly, Dutch Prevention Fund; Maastricht University Hospital Research Fund
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Notes

Risk of bias

Bias	Authors' judgement	Support for judgement
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Comment: No details reported
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	Unclear risk	Comment: No details reported
Blinding (performance bias and detection bias) All outcomes	Low risk	Quote: "double-blind" (p. 785)
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias) All outcomes	Low risk	Quote: 14 patients meeting inclusion criteria were not included, but did not differ from participants in age, gender, or maximum ASAT Comment: Intention-to-treat for primary outcomes
Selective reporting (reporting bias)	High risk	Comment: Many outcomes not or only partially reported

Strik 2000 (Continued)

Comment: No protocol or design paper available

Other bias

High risk

Comment: Conflicting interests: Funded by Eli Lilly

Characteristics of excluded studies [ordered by study ID]

Study	Reason for exclusion
Black 1998	Study investigated psychologically distressed patients (depression was not explicitly assessed)
Bucknall 1988	Study investigated a sample of heart disease patients, which was not restricted to CAD
Davidson 2010	Study investigated patient-preference, stepped-care depression treatment (including no treatment, problem-solving therapy and/or pharmacotherapy) versus usual care, which is not a pre-defined comparison of this review
Fu 2006	Control group unclear (treatment with "Shierkang tablets")
González-Jaimes 2003	Study investigated patients with acute myocardial infarction and adjustment disorder with depressed mood (DSM-IV: 309.0), but not depression
Kachkovskii 2006	Control group unclear
Mohapatra 2005	Study compares pharmacological treatment versus usual care, which is not a pre-defined comparison of this review
Norris 2009	Study investigated effectiveness of providing follow-up information regarding mental health services to depressed patients after cardiac catheterization
Oldridge 1991	Intervention not specifically for treating depression
Pogosova 2004	Study compared pharmacological treatment versus usual care, which is not a pre-defined comparison of this review
Pogosova 2009	Study compared pharmacological treatment versus usual care, which is not a pre-defined comparison of this review
Rollman 2009	Study investigated telephone-delivered collaborative care versus usual care, which is not a pre-defined comparison of this review
Schrader 2005	Study investigated effectiveness of different forms of communication between hospital psychiatric services and general practitioners of depressed cardiac patients Sample of heart disease patients not restricted to CAD
Stern 1983	Study compared counselling versus exercise therapy, which is not a pre-defined comparison of this review
Veith 1982	Sample of heart disease patients not restricted to CAD
Zeng 2001	Study compared pharmacological treatment versus usual care, which is not a pre-defined comparison of this review

Characteristics of studies awaiting assessment *[ordered by study ID]*
Malik 2002

Methods	
Participants	
Interventions	
Outcomes	
Notes	Conference abstract identified through database search. No published data available. No contact information available.

Characteristics of ongoing studies *[ordered by study ID]*
SPIRR-CAD 2008

Trial name or title	A Stepwise Psychotherapy intervention for Reducing Risk in Coronary Artery Disease - a randomized controlled trial (SPIRR-CAD) ISRCTN76240576
Methods	RCT design: 2-arm parallel-group trial Target number of participants: 569 Length of follow-up: 24 months
Participants	Location: Germany Inclusion criteria: Patients with recent coronary heart disease and elevated Hospital Anxiety and Depression Scale (HADS) depression subscale score (> 7)
Interventions	Treatment: Stepwise, individual and group psychotherapy in addition to usual cardiological care Control: Usual cardiological care
Outcomes	Primary outcome: Changes from baseline to year 1 in depressive symptoms (HADS-D)
Starting date	01/12/2008
Contact information	Prof. Christoph Herrmann-Lingen: cherma@gwdg.de
Notes	Funding: German Research Foundation

UPBEAT 2007

Trial name or title	Understanding prognostic benefits of exercise and antidepressant therapy (UPBEAT) NCT00302068
Methods	RCT design: 3-armed parallel-group trial Target number of participants: 200

UPBEAT 2007 (Continued)

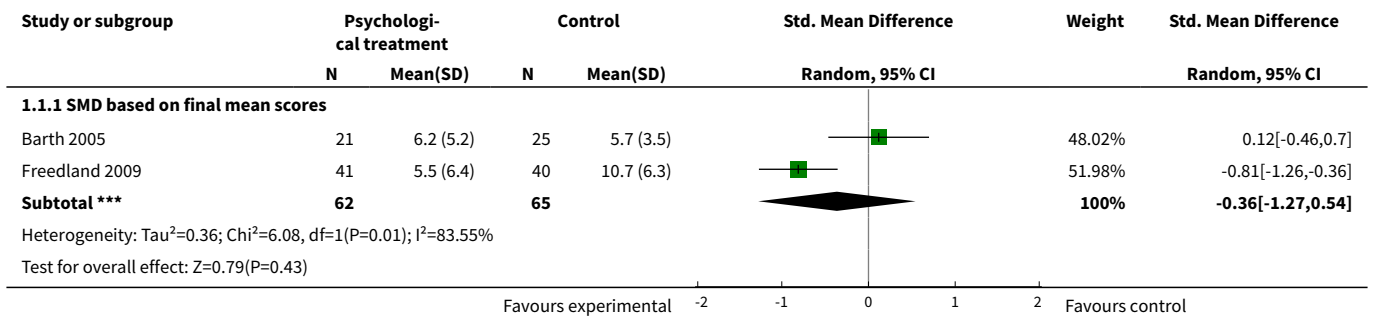
	Length of follow-up: 12 months
Participants	Location: USA Inclusion criteria: Patients with coronary heart disease (CHD) and depressive symptoms (Beck Depression Inventory (BDI-II) score 9 or greater)
Interventions	Treatment: Aerobic exercise Active comparator: Sertraline Control: Placebo
Outcomes	Primary outcome: Hamilton Rating Scale for Depression (HAM-D)
Starting date	July 2006
Contact information	James A. Blumenthal, PhD: blume003@mc.duke.edu Andrew Sherwood, PhD: sherw002@mc.duke.edu
Notes	Funding: National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, USA

DATA AND ANALYSES
Comparison 1. Psychological Intervention vs. Usual Care

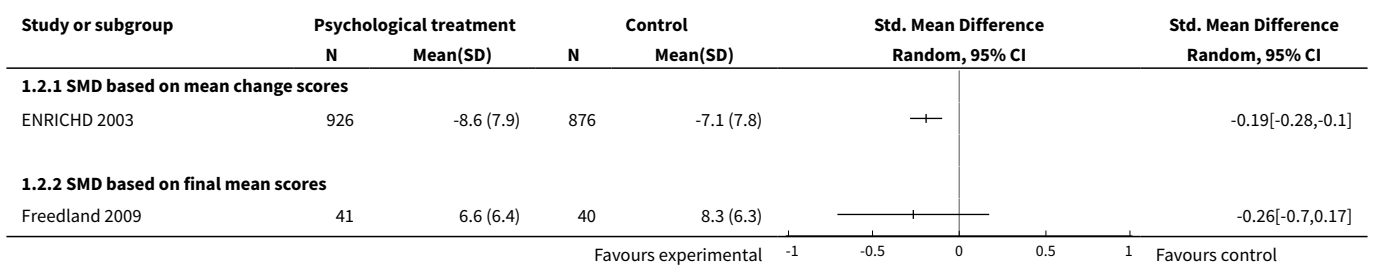
Outcome or subgroup title	No. of studies	No. of participants	Statistical method	Effect size
1 Depression score - short term	2		Std. Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	Subtotals only
1.1 SMD based on final mean scores	2	127	Std. Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	-0.36 [-1.27, 0.54]
2 Depression score - medium term	2		Std. Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	Totals not selected
2.1 SMD based on mean change scores	1		Std. Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	0.0 [0.0, 0.0]
2.2 SMD based on final mean scores	1		Std. Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	0.0 [0.0, 0.0]
3 Depression score - long term	1		Std. Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	Totals not selected
3.1 SMD based on final mean scores	1		Std. Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	0.0 [0.0, 0.0]
4 Depression remission - short, medium and long term	1		Odds Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	Totals not selected

Outcome or subgroup title	No. of studies	No. of participants	Statistical method	Effect size
4.1 short term	1		Odds Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	0.0 [0.0, 0.0]
4.2 medium term	1		Odds Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	0.0 [0.0, 0.0]
4.3 long term	1		Odds Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	0.0 [0.0, 0.0]
5 Mortality, cardiac events and cardiovascular hospitalizations	1		Odds Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	Totals not selected
5.1 All-cause mortality	1		Odds Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	0.0 [0.0, 0.0]
5.2 Cardiovascular mortality	1		Odds Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	0.0 [0.0, 0.0]
5.3 Recurrent nonfatal MI	1		Odds Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	0.0 [0.0, 0.0]
5.4 Revascularization procedures	1		Odds Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	0.0 [0.0, 0.0]
5.5 Cardiovascular hospitalizations	1		Odds Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	0.0 [0.0, 0.0]
6 Quality of life - short term	1		Std. Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	Totals not selected
6.1 SF-36 PCS	1		Std. Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	0.0 [0.0, 0.0]
6.2 SF-36 MCS	1		Std. Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	0.0 [0.0, 0.0]
7 Quality of life - medium term	1		Std. Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	Totals not selected
7.1 SF-36 PCS	1		Std. Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	0.0 [0.0, 0.0]
7.2 SF-36 MCS	1		Std. Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	0.0 [0.0, 0.0]
8 Quality of life - long term	1		Std. Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	Totals not selected
8.1 SF-36 PCS	1		Std. Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	0.0 [0.0, 0.0]
8.2 SF-36 MCS	1		Std. Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	0.0 [0.0, 0.0]

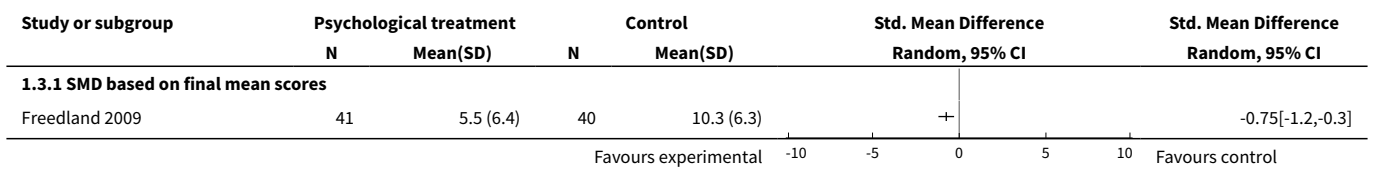
Analysis 1.1. Comparison 1 Psychological Intervention vs. Usual Care, Outcome 1 Depression score - short term.



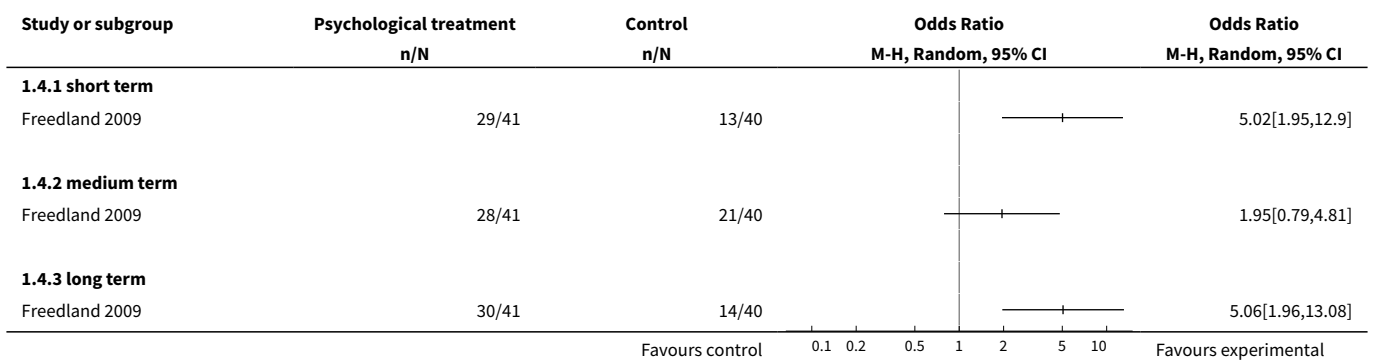
Analysis 1.2. Comparison 1 Psychological Intervention vs. Usual Care, Outcome 2 Depression score - medium term.



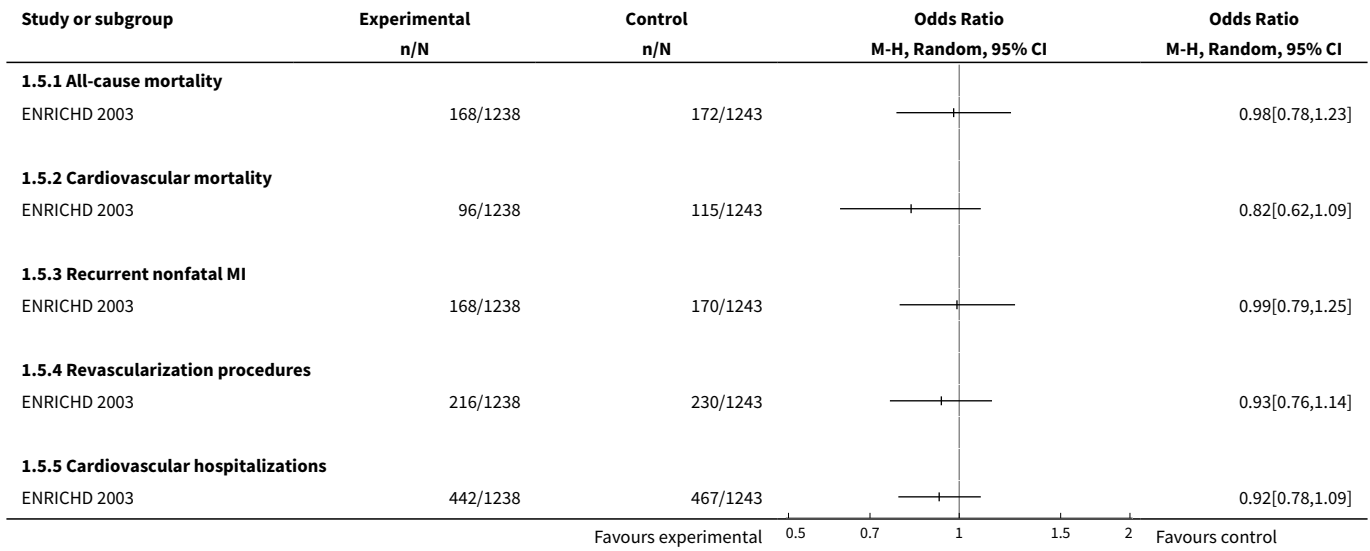
Analysis 1.3. Comparison 1 Psychological Intervention vs. Usual Care, Outcome 3 Depression score - long term.



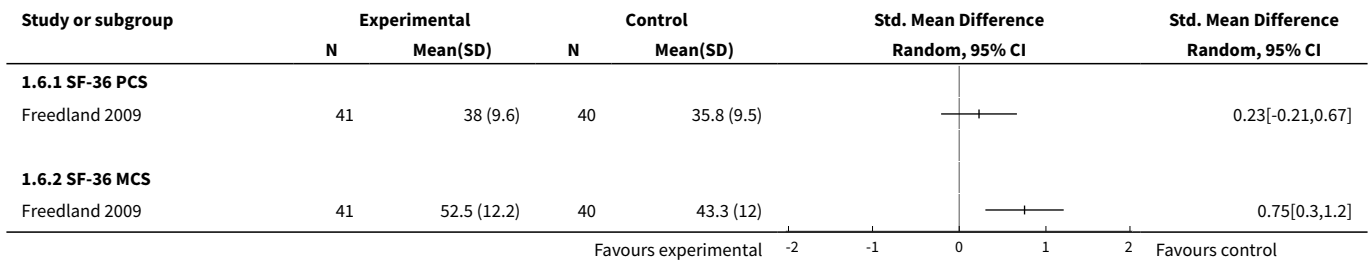
Analysis 1.4. Comparison 1 Psychological Intervention vs. Usual Care, Outcome 4 Depression remission - short, medium and long term.



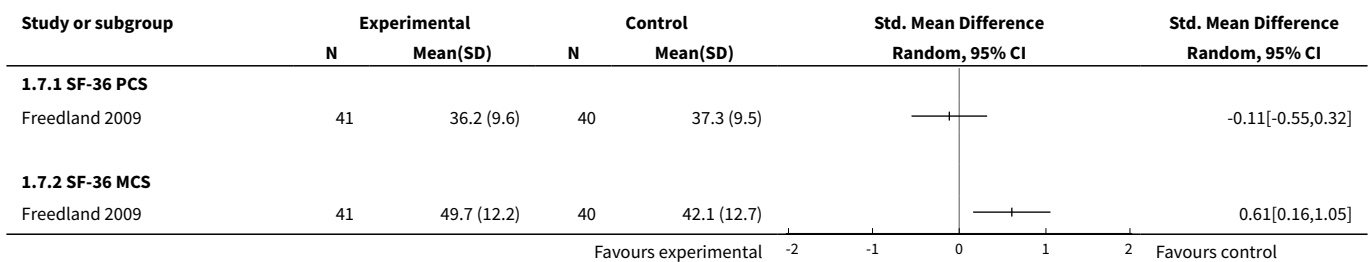
Analysis 1.5. Comparison 1 Psychological Intervention vs. Usual Care, Outcome 5 Mortality, cardiac events and cardiovascular hospitalizations.



Analysis 1.6. Comparison 1 Psychological Intervention vs. Usual Care, Outcome 6 Quality of life - short term.



Analysis 1.7. Comparison 1 Psychological Intervention vs. Usual Care, Outcome 7 Quality of life - medium term.



Analysis 1.8. Comparison 1 Psychological Intervention vs. Usual Care, Outcome 8 Quality of life - long term.

Study or subgroup	Experimental		Control		Std. Mean Difference Random, 95% CI	Std. Mean Difference Random, 95% CI
	N	Mean(SD)	N	Mean(SD)		
1.8.1 SF-36 PCS						
Freedland 2009	41	37.6 (9.6)	40	36.9 (10.1)		0.07[-0.37,0.51]
1.8.2 SF-36 MCS						
Freedland 2009	41	49.1 (12.2)	40	42.4 (12.7)		0.53[0.09,0.98]


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Comparison 2. Psychological Intervention vs. Psychological Intervention / Clinical Management

Outcome or subgroup title	No. of studies	No. of participants	Statistical method	Effect size
1 Depression score - short term	3		Std. Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	Totals not selected
1.1 SMD based on final mean scores	2		Std. Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	0.0 [0.0, 0.0]
1.2 SMD based on mean change scores	1		Std. Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	0.0 [0.0, 0.0]
2 Depression score - medium term	2		Std. Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	Totals not selected
2.1 SMD based on final mean scores	2		Std. Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	0.0 [0.0, 0.0]
3 Depression score - long term	2		Std. Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	Totals not selected
3.1 SMD based on final mean scores	2		Std. Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	0.0 [0.0, 0.0]
4 Depression remission - short term	2		Odds Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	Totals not selected
5 Depression remission - medium and long term	1		Odds Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	Totals not selected
5.1 medium term	1		Odds Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	0.0 [0.0, 0.0]
5.2 long term	1		Odds Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	0.0 [0.0, 0.0]
6 Cardiac events	1		Odds Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	Totals not selected
6.1 Recurrent nonfatal MI	1		Odds Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	0.0 [0.0, 0.0]
6.2 Congestive heart failure	1		Odds Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	0.0 [0.0, 0.0]
6.3 Recurrent angina	1		Odds Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	0.0 [0.0, 0.0]



Outcome or subgroup title	No. of studies	No. of participants	Statistical method	Effect size
7 Quality of life	1		Std. Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	Totals not selected
7.1 SF-36 PCS - short term	1		Std. Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	0.0 [0.0, 0.0]
7.2 SF-36 MCS - short term	1		Std. Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	0.0 [0.0, 0.0]
7.3 SF-36 PCS - medium term	1		Std. Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	0.0 [0.0, 0.0]
7.4 SF-36 MCS - medium term	1		Std. Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	0.0 [0.0, 0.0]
7.5 SF-36 MCS - long term	1		Std. Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	0.0 [0.0, 0.0]
7.6 SF-36 PCS - long term	1		Std. Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	0.0 [0.0, 0.0]

Analysis 2.1. Comparison 2 Psychological Intervention vs. Psychological Intervention / Clinical Management, Outcome 1 Depression score - short term.

Study or subgroup	Psychological treatment		Control		Std. Mean Difference Random, 95% CI	Std. Mean Difference Random, 95% CI
	N	Mean(SD)	N	Mean(SD)		
2.1.1 SMD based on final mean scores						
Brown 1993	20	6.9 (4.3)	20	9.4 (7.2)		-0.4[-1.03,0.22]
Freedland 2009	41	5.5 (6.4)	42	7.8 (6.5)		-0.35[-0.79,0.08]
2.1.2 SMD based on mean change scores						
CREATE 2007	142	12.1 (10)	142	14.4 (10)		-0.23[-0.46,0]

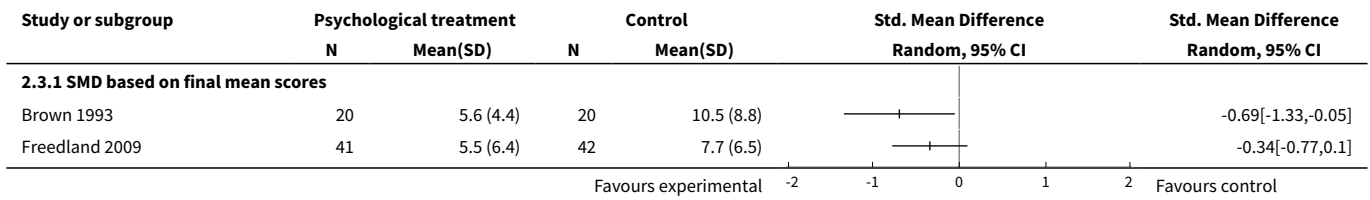
Favours experimental -2 -1 0 1 2 Favours control

Analysis 2.2. Comparison 2 Psychological Intervention vs. Psychological Intervention / Clinical Management, Outcome 2 Depression score - medium term.

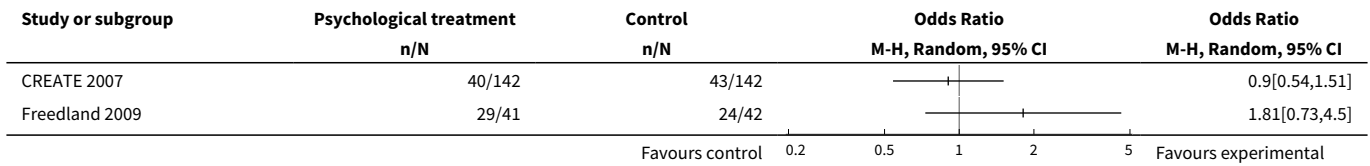
Study or subgroup	Psychological treatment		Control		Std. Mean Difference Random, 95% CI	Std. Mean Difference Random, 95% CI
	N	Mean(SD)	N	Mean(SD)		
2.2.1 SMD based on final mean scores						
Brown 1993	20	6.3 (2.9)	20	9.7 (6.7)		-0.65[-1.28,-0.01]
Freedland 2009	41	6.6 (6.4)	42	8.5 (6.5)		-0.29[-0.72,0.14]

Favours experimental -2 -1 0 1 2 Favours control

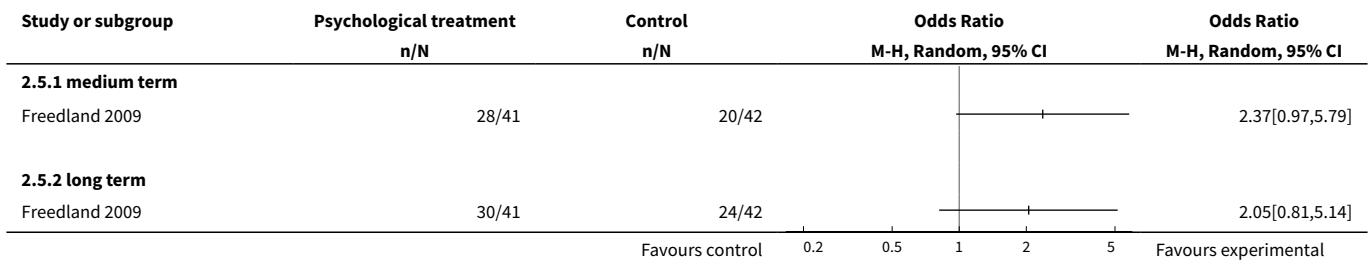
Analysis 2.3. Comparison 2 Psychological Intervention vs. Psychological Intervention / Clinical Management, Outcome 3 Depression score - long term.



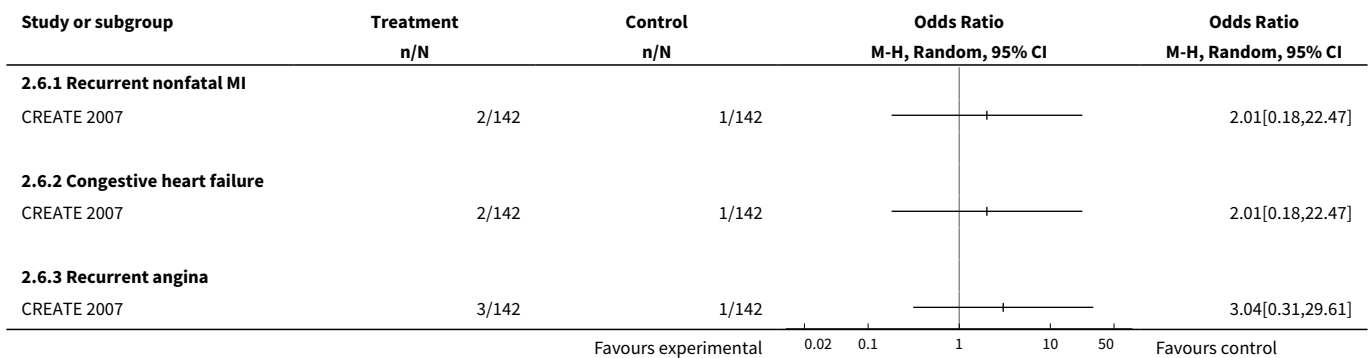
Analysis 2.4. Comparison 2 Psychological Intervention vs. Psychological Intervention / Clinical Management, Outcome 4 Depression remission - short term.



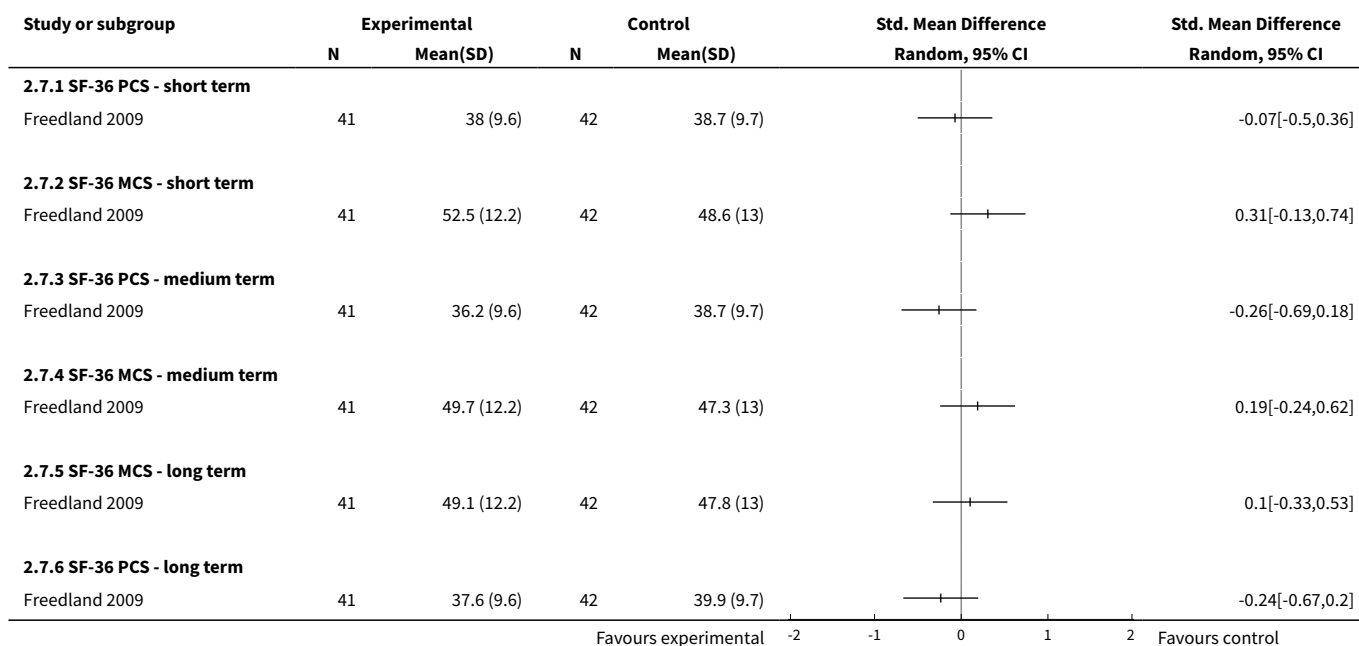
Analysis 2.5. Comparison 2 Psychological Intervention vs. Psychological Intervention / Clinical Management, Outcome 5 Depression remission - medium and long term.



Analysis 2.6. Comparison 2 Psychological Intervention vs. Psychological Intervention / Clinical Management, Outcome 6 Cardiac events.



Analysis 2.7. Comparison 2 Psychological Intervention vs. Psychological Intervention / Clinical Management, Outcome 7 Quality of life.

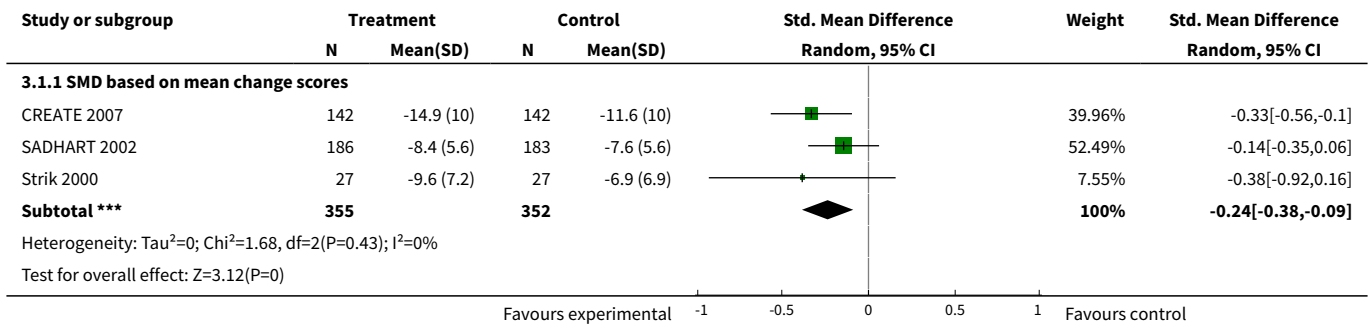


Comparison 3. Pharmacological Intervention vs. Placebo

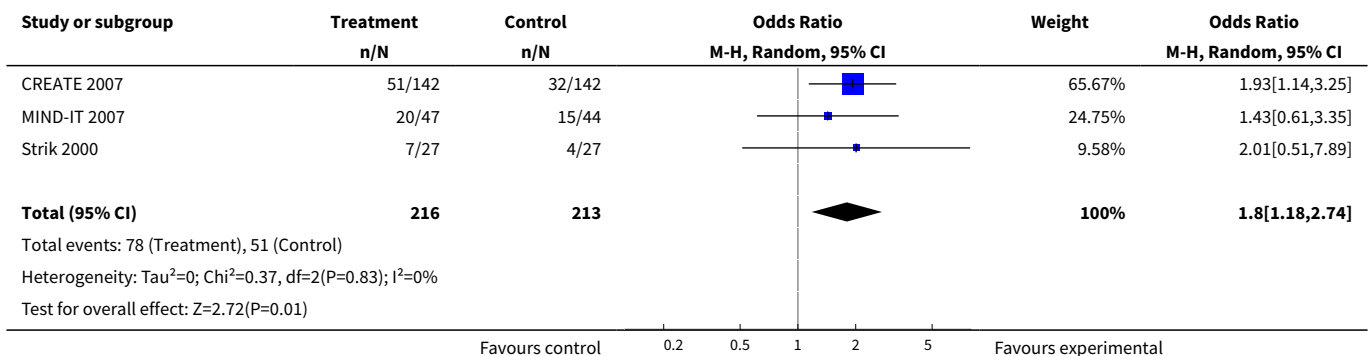
Outcome or subgroup title	No. of studies	No. of participants	Statistical method	Effect size
1 Depression score - short term	3		Std. Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	Subtotals only
1.1 SMD based on mean change scores	3	707	Std. Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	-0.24 [-0.38, -0.09]
2 Depression remission - short term	3	429	Odds Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	1.80 [1.18, 2.74]
3 All-cause mortality	3	487	Odds Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	0.39 [0.07, 2.02]
4 Cardiac events	3		Odds Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	Subtotals only
4.1 Total cardiovascular events	1	369	Odds Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	0.77 [0.51, 1.17]
4.2 Recurrent nonfatal MI	2	653	Odds Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	0.56 [0.19, 1.66]
4.3 Congestive heart failure	3	744	Odds Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	0.95 [0.35, 2.59]
4.4 Recurrent angina	3	744	Odds Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	0.84 [0.49, 1.44]
4.5 Cardiac procedures	1	369	Odds Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	0.80 [0.49, 1.28]
5 Resource utilization	3		Odds Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	Subtotals only

Outcome or subgroup title	No. of studies	No. of participants	Statistical method	Effect size
5.1 Hospitalizations	3	514	Odds Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	0.58 [0.39, 0.85]
5.2 Emergency room visits	1	369	Odds Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	0.58 [0.34, 1.00]
6 Healthcare costs	1		Std. Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	Totals not selected
6.1 Excluding antidepressant medication costs	1		Std. Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	0.0 [0.0, 0.0]
7 Quality of life - short term	1		Std. Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	Totals not selected
7.1 Q-LES-Q	1		Std. Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	0.0 [0.0, 0.0]

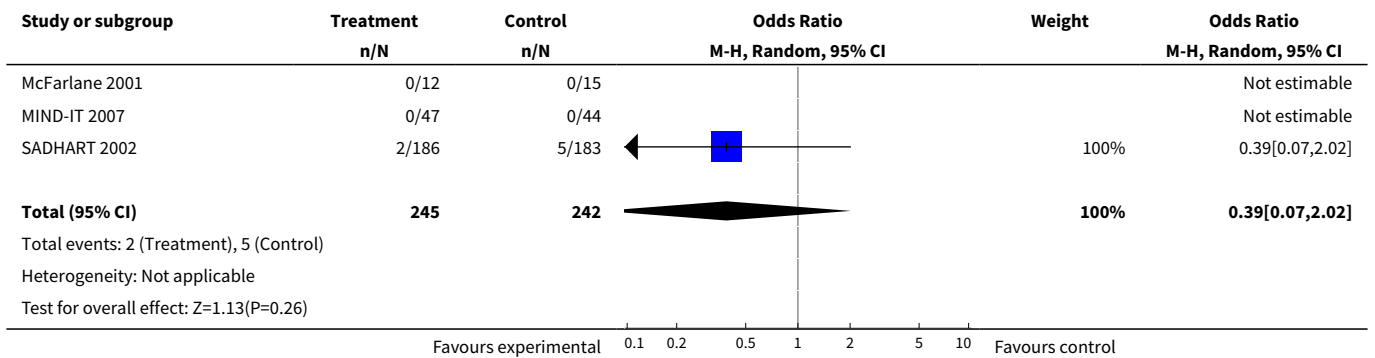
Analysis 3.1. Comparison 3 Pharmacological Intervention vs. Placebo, Outcome 1 Depression score - short term.



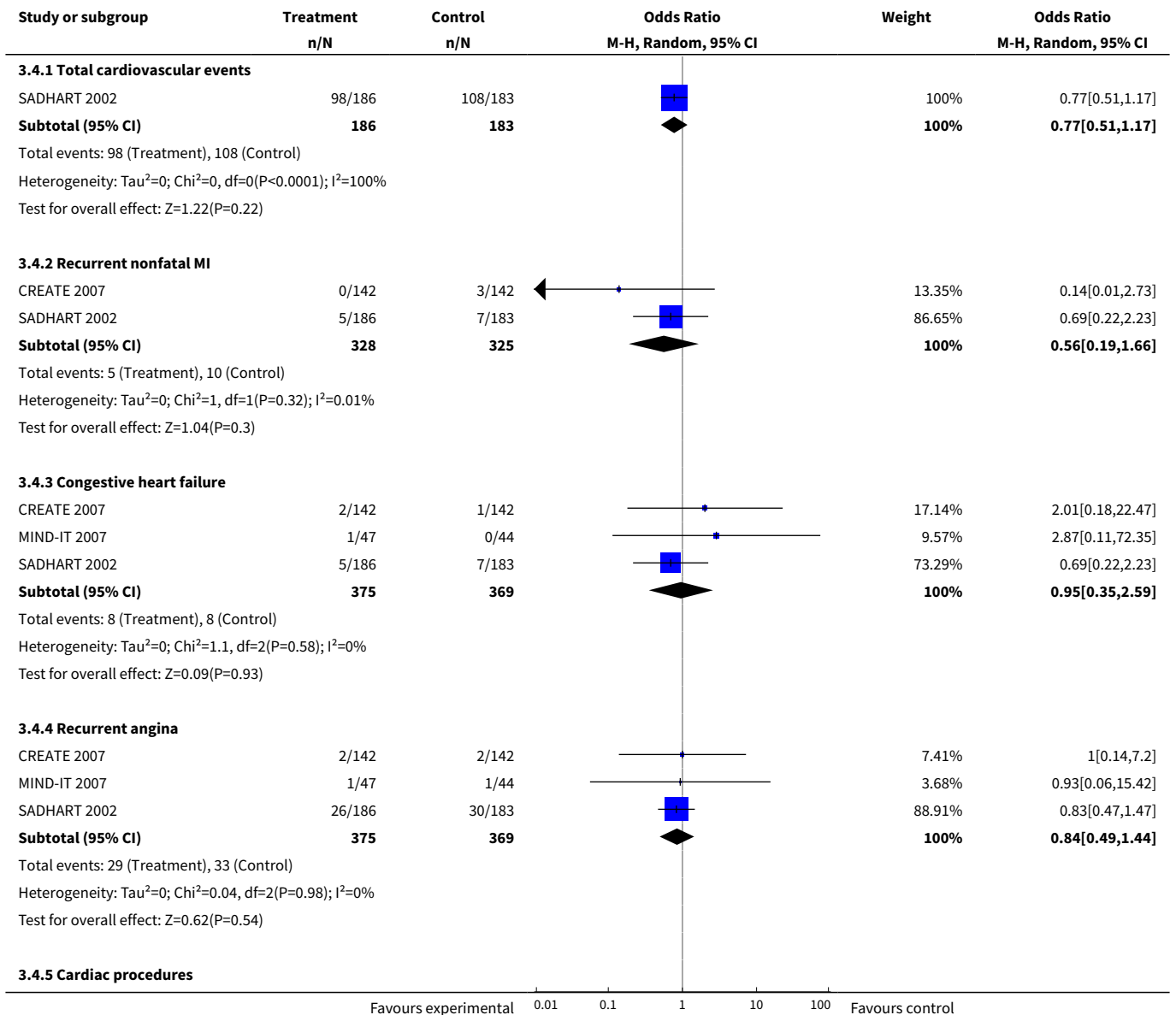
Analysis 3.2. Comparison 3 Pharmacological Intervention vs. Placebo, Outcome 2 Depression remission - short term.

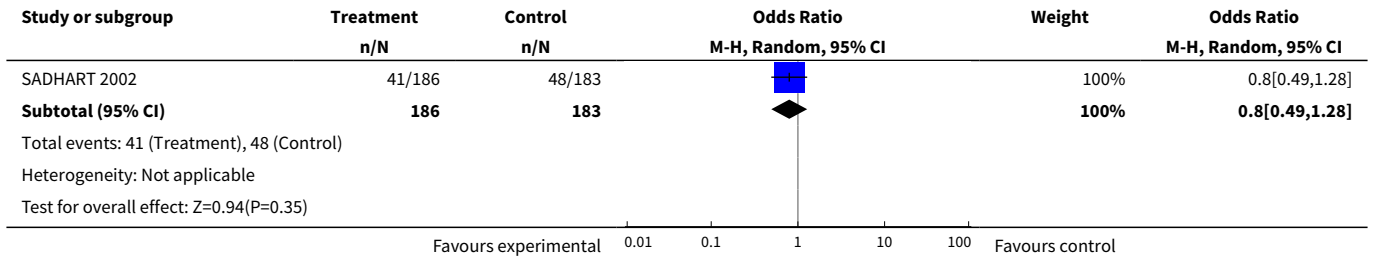


Analysis 3.3. Comparison 3 Pharmacological Intervention vs. Placebo, Outcome 3 All-cause mortality.

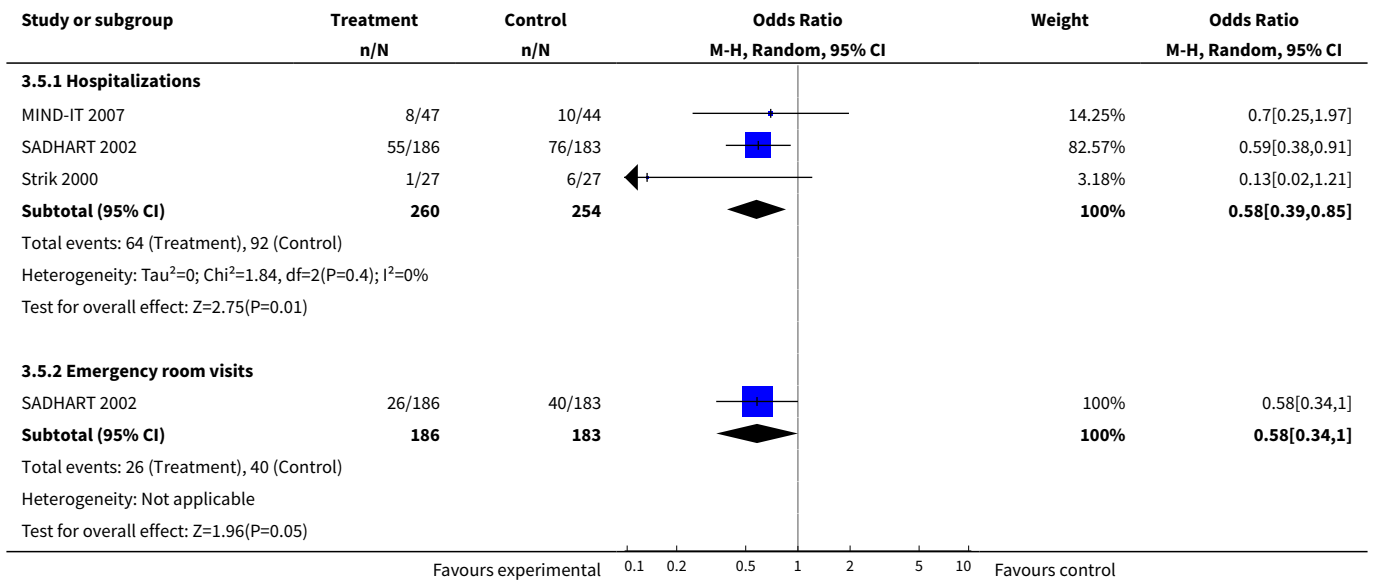


Analysis 3.4. Comparison 3 Pharmacological Intervention vs. Placebo, Outcome 4 Cardiac events.

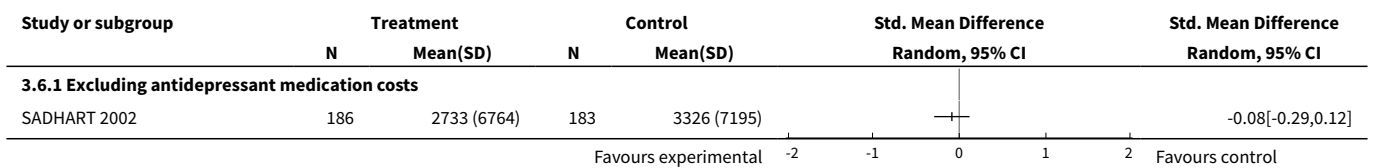




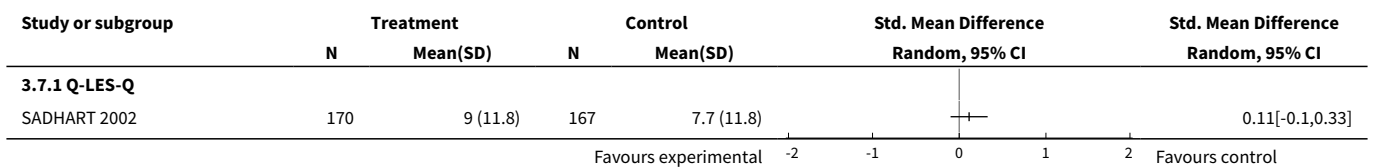
Analysis 3.5. Comparison 3 Pharmacological Intervention vs. Placebo, Outcome 5 Resource utilization.



Analysis 3.6. Comparison 3 Pharmacological Intervention vs. Placebo, Outcome 6 Healthcare costs.



Analysis 3.7. Comparison 3 Pharmacological Intervention vs. Placebo, Outcome 7 Quality of life - short term.



Comparison 4. Pharmacological Intervention vs. Pharmacological Intervention

Outcome or subgroup title	No. of studies	No. of participants	Statistical method	Effect size
1 Depression score - short term	1		Std. Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	Totals not selected
1.1 SMD based on mean change scores	1		Std. Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	0.0 [0.0, 0.0]
2 Depression remission - short term	1		Odds Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	Totals not selected

Analysis 4.1. Comparison 4 Pharmacological Intervention vs. Pharmacological Intervention, Outcome 1 Depression score - short term.

Study or subgroup	Paroxetine		Nortriptyline		Std. Mean Difference Random, 95% CI	Std. Mean Difference Random, 95% CI
	N	Mean(SD)	N	Mean(SD)		
4.1.1 SMD based on mean change scores						
Roose 1998	41	-12.7 (7.8)	40	-13.1 (7.4)		0.05[-0.38,0.49]

Favours Paroxetine -1 -0.5 0 0.5 1 Favours Nortriptyline

Analysis 4.2. Comparison 4 Pharmacological Intervention vs. Pharmacological Intervention, Outcome 2 Depression remission - short term.

Study or subgroup	Paroxetine	Nortriptyline	Odds Ratio M-H, Random, 95% CI	Odds Ratio M-H, Random, 95% CI
	n/N	n/N		
Roose 1998	25/41	25/40		0.94[0.38,2.3]

Favours Paroxetine 0.5 0.7 1 1.5 2 Favours Nortriptyline

ADDITIONAL TABLES

Table 1. Overview of study population

Study ID	Intervention	[n] screened	[n] randomised	[n] ITT	[n] finishing study	[%] of randomised participants finishing study	comments
Barth 2005	Intervention (I): Resource-oriented Psychotherapy	Total: 1709	I: 27	I: 27	I: 27	I: 100%	
	Control (C): Usual Care		C: 32	C: 32	C: 28	C: 87.5%	
			Total: 59	Total: 59	Total: 55	Total: 93.2%	
Brown 1993	Intervention (I): Behavior Therapy	Total: 107	I: NR	I: NR	I: 20	I: ?	
	Control (C): Person-centered Therapy		C: NR	C: NR	C: 20	C: ?	
			Total: 54	Total: NR	Total: 40	Total: 74.1%	
CREATE 2007	Intervention 1 (I1): Interpersonal Psychotherapy	Total: 1897	I1: 142	I1: 142	I1: 118	I1: 83.1%	2 X 2 factorial trial
			I2: 142	I2: 142	I2: 124	I2: 87.3%	
	Intervention 2 (I2): Citalopram		C1: 142	C1: 142	C1: 112	C1: 78.9%	
			Control 1 (C1): Clinical management	C2: 142	C2: 142	C2: 106	
Control 2 (C2): Placebo	Total: 284	Total: 284	Total: 230	Total: 81.0%			
Doering 2007	Intervention (I): Cognitive Behavioral Therapy	Total: 117	I: NR	I: NR	I: 7	I: ?	
	Control (C): Usual care		C: NR	C: NR	C: 8	C: ?	
			Total: NR	Total: NR	Total: 15	Total: ?	
ENRICHD 2003	Intervention (I): Cognitive Behavioral Therapy	Total: 33780	I: 1238	I: 1238	I: 983	I: 79.4%	
	Control (C): Usual Care		C: 1243	C: 1243	C: 985	C: 79.2%	
			Total: 2481	Total: 2481	Total: 1968	Total: 79.3%	
Fang 2003	Intervention (I): Health Education and Psychological Intervention	Total: ?	I: 27	I:	I:	I:	
	Control (C): Usual care		C: 30	C:	C:	C:	
			Total: 57	Total:	Total:	Total:	
Freedland 2009	Intervention 1 (I1): Cognitive Behavior Therapy	Total: 2955	I1: 41	I1: 41	I1: 40	I1: 98%	
			I2: 42	I2: 42	I2: 33	I2: 79%	

Table 1. Overview of study population *(Continued)*

	Intervention 2 (I2): Supportive Stress Management		C1: 40	C1: 40	C1: ?	C1: ?
			Total: 123	Total: 123	Total: ?	Total: ?
	Control (C): Usual Care for depression					
Freeman 1986	Intervention (I): Alprazolam	Total: 459	I: 54	I: NR	I: 32	I: 59.3%
	Control (C): Placebo		C: 53	C: NR	C: 28	C: 52.8%
			Total: 107	Total: NR	Total: 60	Total: 56.1%
Li 2005	Intervention (I): St. John's Wort extract	Total: ?	I: ?	I: ?	I: 43	I: ?
	Control (C): Placebo		C: ?	C: ?	C: 39	C: ?
			Total: 87	Total: ?	Total: 82	Total: 94.3%
Liu 1999	Intervention (I): Fluoxetine	Total: ?	I: ?	I: ?	I: 31	I: ?
	Control (C): Placebo		C: ?	C: ?	C: 37	C: ?
			Total: ?	Total: ?	Total: ?	Total: ?
McFarlane 2001	Intervention (I): Sertraline	Total: 238	I: 18	I: NR	I: 12	I: 66.7%
	Control (C): Placebo		C: 20	C: NR	C: 15	C: 75.0%
			Total: 38	Total: NR	Total: 27	Total: 71.1%
McLaughlin 2005	Intervention (I1): Telephone counseling	Total: 700	I: 53	I: NR	I: 45	I: 84.9%
	Control (C): Usual care		C: 47	C: NR	C: 34	C: 72.3%
			Total: 100	Total: NR	Total: 79	Total: 79%
MIND-IT 2007	Intervention (I): Mirtazapine	Total: 2177	I: 47	I: 47	I: 22	I: 46.8%
	Control (C): Placebo		C: 44	C: 44	C: 18	C: 40.9%
			Total: 91	Total: 91	Total: 40	Total: 44.0%
Roose 1998	Intervention 1 (I1): Paroxetine	Total: NR	I1: 41	I1: 41	I1: 37	I1: 90.2%
	Intervention 2 (I2): Nortriptyline		I2: 40	I2: 40	I2: 30	I2: 75.0%
			Total: 81	Total: 81	Total: 67	Total: 82.7%

Table 1. Overview of study population *(Continued)*

SADHART 2002	Intervention (I): Sertraline	Total: 11546	I: 186	I: 186	I: 133	I: 71.5%
	Control (C): Placebo		C: 183	C: 183	C: 137	C: 74.9%
			Total: 369	Total: 169	Total: 270	Total: 73.1%
Strik 2000	Intervention (I): Fluoxetine	Total: 556	I: 27	I: 27	I: 22	I: 81.5%
	Control (C): Placebo		C: 27	C: 27	C: 18	C: 66.7%
			Total: 54	Total: 54	Total: 40	Total: 74.1%

ITT = intention-to-treat; NR = not reported; ? = unclear

APPENDICES

Appendix 1. Search strategy

CENTRAL, DARE, HTA and EED on The Cochrane Library

- #1 MeSH descriptor myocardial ischemia explode all trees
- #2 MeSH descriptor Myocardial Revascularization explode all trees
- #3 (ischemi* in All Text near/3 heart in All Text)
- #4 (ischaemi* in All Text near/3 heart in All Text)
- #5 (coronary in All Text near/3 disease* in All Text)
- #6 angina in All Text
- #7 myocardial next infarct* in All Text
- #8 heart next infarct* in All Text
- #9 (coronary in All Text near/3 bypass in All Text)
- #10 (heart in All Text near/3 disease in All Text)
- #11 (cardiac in All Text near/3 disease in All Text)
- #12 chd in All Text
- #13 cad in All Text
- #14 (coronary in All Text near/3 angioplasty in All Text)
- #15 (#1 or #2 or #3 or #4 or #5 or #6 or #7 or #8 or #9 or #10)
- #16 (#11 or #12 or #13 or #14)
- #17 (#15 or #16)
- #18 MeSH descriptor depression explode all trees
- #19 MeSH descriptor Depressive Disorder explode all trees
- #20 MeSH descriptor Mood Disorders this term only
- #21 "depression" in Keywords
- #22 "depressive" in Keywords
- #23 "Dysthymia" in Keywords
- #24 dysthymi* in All Text
- #25 (depressi* in All Text near/3 disorder* in All Text)
- #26 (depressi* in All Text near/3 symptom* in All Text)
- #27 mood next disorder* in All Text
- #28 depression in Record Title
- #29 antidepress* in All Text
- #30 anti-depress* in All Text
- #31 (#18 or #19 or #20 or #21 or #22 or #23 or #24 or #25 or #26 or #27)
- #32 (#28 or #29 or #30)
- #33 (#31 or #32)
- #34 (#17 and #33)

MEDLINE (OVID)

- 1 exp Myocardial Ischemia/
2 exp Myocardial Revascularization/
3 (isch?emi\$ adj3 heart).tw.
4 (coronary adj3 disease).tw.
5 angina.tw.
6 myocardial infarct\$.tw.
7 heart infarct\$.tw.
8 (coronary adj3 bypass\$).tw.
9 (heart adj3 disease).tw.
10 (cardiac adj3 disease).tw.
11 chd.tw.
12 CAD.tw.
13 (coronary adj3 angioplasty).tw.
14 or/1-13
15 Depression/
16 exp Depressive Disorder/
17 Mood Disorders/
18 dysthymi\$.tw.
19 (depressi\$ adj3 disorder\$).tw.

20 (depressi\$ adj3 symptom\$).tw.
21 mood disorder\$.tw.
22 affective disorder\$.tw.
23 antidepress\$.tw.
24 anti-depress\$.tw.
25 or/15-24
26 14 and 25
27 randomized controlled trial.pt.
28 controlled clinical trial.pt.
29 randomized.ab.
30 placebo.ab.
31 drug therapy.fs.
32 randomly.ab.
33 trial.ab.
34 groups.ab.
35 or/27-34
36 (animals not humans).sh.
37 35 not 36
38 26 and 37

EMBASE (OVID)

1 exp ischemic heart disease/
2 exp coronary artery surgery/
3 exp percutaneous coronary intervention/
4 (isch?emi\$ adj3 heart).tw.
5 (coronary adj3 disease).tw.
6 angina.tw.
7 myocardial infarct\$.tw.
8 heart infarct\$.tw.
9 (coronary adj3 bypass\$).tw.
10 (heart adj3 disease).tw.
11 (cardiac adj3 disease).tw.
12 chd.tw.
13 CAD.tw.
14 (coronary adj3 angioplasty).tw.
15 or/1-14
16 exp depression/
17 affective neurosis/
18 Mood Disorder/
19 dysthymi\$.tw.
20 (depressi\$ adj3 disorder\$).tw.
21 (depressi\$ adj3 symptom\$).tw.
22 mood disorder\$.tw.
23 affective disorder\$.tw.
24 antidepress\$.tw.
25 anti-depress\$.tw.
26 or/16-25
27 15 and 26
28 controlled clinical trial/
29 random\$.tw.
30 randomized controlled trial/
31 follow-up.tw.
32 double blind procedure/
33 placebo\$.tw.
34 placebo/
35 factorial\$.ti,ab.
36 (crossover\$ or cross-over\$).ti,ab.
37 (double\$ adj blind\$).ti,ab.
38 (singl\$ adj blind\$).ti,ab.
39 assign\$.ti,ab.
40 allocat\$.ti,ab.

41 volunteer\$.ti,ab.
 42 Crossover Procedure/
 43 Single Blind Procedure/
 44 or/28-43
 45 (exp animals/ or nonhuman/) not human/
 46 44 not 45
 47 27 and 46

PsycINFO

1 exp heart disorders/
 2 heart surgery/
 3 (isch?emi\$ adj3 heart).tw.
 4 (coronary adj3 disease).tw.
 5 angina.tw.
 6 myocardial infarct\$.tw.
 7 heart infarct\$.tw.
 8 (coronary adj3 bypass\$).tw.
 9 (heart adj3 disease).tw.
 10 (cardiac adj3 disease).tw.
 11 chd.tw.
 12 CAD.tw.
 13 (coronary adj3 angioplasty).tw.
 14 or/1-13
 15 exp affective disorders/
 16 "depression (emotion)"/
 17 dysthymi\$.tw.
 18 (depressi\$ adj3 disorder\$).tw.
 19 (depressi\$ adj3 symptom\$).tw.
 20 mood disorder\$.tw.
 21 affective disorder\$.tw.
 22 antidepress\$.tw.
 23 anti-depress\$.tw.
 24 or/15-23
 25 14 and 24
 26 random\$.tw.
 27 ((singl\$ or doubl\$ or trebl\$ or tripl\$) adj25 (blind\$ or dummy or mask\$)).tw.
 28 placebo\$.tw.
 29 crossover.tw.
 30 assign\$.tw.
 31 allocat\$.tw.
 32 ((clin\$ or control\$ or compar\$ or evaluat\$ or prospectiv\$) adj25 (trial\$ or studi\$ or study)).tw.
 33 placebo/
 34 treatment effectiveness evaluation/
 35 mental health program evaluation/
 36 experimental design/
 37 clinical trials/
 38 or/26-37
 39 25 and 38

CINAHL (EBSCO)

((MH "Affective Disorders+") or (TI depression) or dysthymi* or (mood disorder*) or (affective disorder*) or antidepress* or anti-depress* or (depressi* N3 disorder*) or (depressi* N3 symptom*)) and ((MH "Myocardial Ischemia+") or (MH "Myocardial Revascularization+") or Angina or (myocardial infarct*) or (heart infarct*) or coronary or cardiac or chd or CAD or (heart disease)) and ((MH "Clinical Trials+") or randomi* or randomly or placebo* or trial)

CONTRIBUTIONS OF AUTHORS

Harald Baumeister: drafting of protocol, developing of search strategy, trials search and selection, data extraction, entering data into RevMan, data analysis, drafting the review, updating the review

Nico Hutter: drafting of protocol, developing of search strategy, trials search and selection, data extraction, entering data into RevMan, data analysis, drafting the review

Jürgen Bengel: drafting of protocol, trials search and selection, drafting the review

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None known

SOURCES OF SUPPORT

Internal sources

- No sources of support supplied

External sources

- German Federal Ministry of Education and Research, Germany.

Funding the review project

DIFFERENCES BETWEEN PROTOCOL AND REVIEW

- Subgroup analyses and sensitivity analyses have been omitted due to the small amount of trials investigating the various outcomes.
- For the same reason funnel plots were not created and not tested for asymmetry.

INDEX TERMS

Medical Subject Headings (MeSH)

Antidepressive Agents [*therapeutic use]; Coronary Artery Disease [mortality] [*psychology]; Depression [*therapy]; Psychotherapy [*methods]; Randomized Controlled Trials as Topic

MeSH check words

Adult; Humans