



Effects of Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy Based Music Therapy in Korean Adolescents with Smartphone and Internet Addiction

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Objective The purpose of this study was to evaluate the effects of adding music therapy (MT) to cognitive-behavioral therapy (CBT) on symptoms of smartphone/internet addiction and psychiatric comorbidities.

Methods Overall, 155 patients diagnosed with addiction were assigned to either the CBT-MT group or CBT group. Both groups received CBT for 8 weeks, while the CBT-MT group received additional MT. The intervention was completed by 67 and 71 participants in the CBT-MT and CBT groups, respectively.

Results The total scores of Young Internet Addiction Scale (YIAT) and Smartphone Addiction Proneness Scale (SAPS) decreased significantly ($p < 0.001$ for both) in both groups, while the total scores of State Anxiety Inventory for Children (SAIC) ($p < 0.001$), Trait Anxiety Inventory for Children (TAIC) ($p < 0.001$), Conners-Wells' Adolescent Self-Report Scale-Short form (CASS(S)) ($p = 0.048$), and Barratt Impulsiveness Scale-11 (BIS-11) ($p < 0.001$) decreased only in the CBT-MT group. The decrements in YIAT ($p = 0.025$), SAIC ($p = 0.043$), TAIC ($p = 0.011$), and BIS-11 ($p = 0.012$) in the CBT-MT group were significantly greater than those in the CBT group.

Conclusion Combined MT and CBT improved the symptoms of smartphone/internet addiction, anxiety, and impulsivity in adolescents. This combination could therefore be an effective treatment of smartphone or internet addiction along with behavioral disorders such as anxiety and impulsivity.

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Key Words Smartphone, Internet, Addictive behavior, Music therapy, Cognitive-behavioral therapy.

INTRODUCTION

In 2018, the South Korea National Information Society Agency (NIA) reported that 19.1% of smartphone users suffered from smartphone/internet addiction in South Korea.¹ Notably, although internet gaming disorder was added in Section 3 (Conditions for Further Study) of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, fifth edition (DSM-5),² and gaming disorder was added to the World Health Organization (WHO) International Classification of Diseases, 11th Revision (ICD-11),³ the causes, concepts, and terms regarding smartphone/internet addiction are yet to be elucidated. As a result, evidence-based treatment guidelines have been difficult to establish.⁴

Besides contributing to an increase in the crime rate,⁵ studies have implicated smartphone/internet addiction in multiple psychiatric disorders including anxiety, depression, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), impulsivity, substance abuse, gambling, and behavioral problems⁶⁻¹⁴ in teenagers. The consequences of smartphone/internet addiction could be even more devastating due to its prevalence in adolescents. In fact, it has been reported that 29.3% of teenagers aged 10–19 years suffered from smartphone/internet addiction.¹ Therefore, effective preventive and management measures are urgently required.

Cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT) has been considered as the first-line treatment for smartphone/internet addiction.¹⁵ Based on the work of Davis¹⁶ linking distortion in perception, negative reinforcement and internet addiction, studies conducted in the USA,^{17,18} South Korea,^{19,20} and China²¹ have reported potential therapeutic effects of CBT in internet addiction. For instance, Home Daily Journal writing (HDJ), a form of CBT, is thought to be beneficial in the treatment of internet addiction.²²

However, a recent meta-analysis²³ found CBT to be relatively ineffective in adolescents. Indeed, not only are adoles-

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cents shy and afraid of stigma, they appear less keen for treatment as compared to adults. Additionally, CBT can seem boring, making it difficult to convince patients of its effectiveness.²⁴

Music therapy (MT) has also been found to be effective in depression and substance use disorder.^{25,26} Several studies have used MT in teenagers with internet addiction²⁷⁻²⁹ in South Korea. Czamanski-Cohen and Weihs³⁰ reported that art therapy allowed subjects to experience a supportive therapist as a 'good-enough mother', and to express indescribable negative emotions through the process of art in a safe environment, such that the participants could reflect upon their own cognition, behaviors, and emotions through meta-recognition processes. Importantly, Kokal et al.³¹ used functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) to demonstrate the activation of the caudate nucleus, a region associated with the reward system.

Based on these findings, we hypothesized that group MT would be effective in smartphone/internet addiction and that combining it with cognitive behavioral interventions would result in synergistic effects. We therefore wanted to investigate the effects of 8 weeks of MT in combination with CBT homeworks (HDJ) in adolescents with smartphone/internet addiction, depression, anxiety, ADHD, and impulsiveness.

METHODS

Participants

The inclusion criteria were: 1) 10–16 years of age; 2) classified as high-risk (>70) or problematic (>40) user based on Young Internet Addiction Scale (YIAT),³² or smartphone high-risk group based on Korean Smartphone Addiction Proneness Scale (SAPS);³³ and 3) written informed consent from the participants and their parents. The exclusion criteria were: 1) medical, surgical, or neurological disorders and 2) inability to respond to the questionnaire due to severe mental disorders (such as schizophrenia and bipolar disorders), intellectual disability, or developmental disorders.

Overall, 155 students from six elementary and middle schools in Daegu Metropolitan City and North Gyeongsang Province were selected in the study through the WEE (We+Education+Emotion) center, a school counseling office supported by the South Korean government. Of them, 70 students were randomly prescribed MT and CBT homeworks (CBT-MT group) while the remaining 85 students were only prescribed CBT homeworks (CBT group).

Before the interventions, sociodemographic information including the age, sex, marital status of parent(s), school performance, number of hours per week spent on smartphone/internet games, Children's Social Support Scale (SSS) score,³⁴ and Parent-Adolescent Communication Scale (PACS) score³⁵

were self-reported through a questionnaire. The changes in these parameters after the intervention were analyzed using clinical scales for assessing smartphone/internet addiction, depression, anxiety, ADHD, and impulsivity.

This study was approved by the Institutional Review Board of the Daegu Catholic University Medical Center (Approval No. CR 19-032) and was conducted in compliance with the Declaration of Helsinki. All the participants provided written informed consents.

Parameters

Korean Smartphone Addiction Proneness Scale (SAPS)

We used this scale developed by NIA³³ for evaluating smartphone addiction. If the participants were classified 'not a risk', they were excluded from the study. Cronbach's α for this scale was 0.880.

Young's Internet Addiction Test (YIAT)

Developed by Young,³² this is the most widely used scale in assessing internet addiction. Cronbach's α for this scale was 0.880, and we used cut-off values of 40–69 and ≥ 70 to identify problematic and high-risk internet users, respectively.

Beck Depression Inventory-II (BDI-II)

In accordance with DSM-IV diagnostic criteria for major depression disorders, Beck³⁶ modified and supplemented the existing BDI. A previous study to assess the reliability and validity of BDI-II reported that its Cronbach's α was 0.880.³⁷

State/Trait Anxiety Inventory for Children (SAIC/TAIC)

The reliability and validity of this scale, developed by Spielberger et al.,³⁸ were evaluated by Cho and Choi³⁹ in South Korea. These two scales are intended to be either 'current state' or 'usual state', respectively.

Rosenberg Self Esteem Scale (RSES)

It was developed by Rosenberg⁴⁰ as a tool to measure self-esteem and was translated into a Korean version by Jeon.⁴¹ Based on a 4-point Likert scale, it consists of 10 questions to evaluate self-worth,

Conners-Wells' Adolescent Self-Report Scale Short Form (CASS(S))

This is a part of the Conversing Scales-Revised (CRS-R) complex test for diagnosing ADHD, and its shortened form is used in adolescents. In 2001, Bahn et al.⁴² translated it into Korean with Cronbach's α of 0.880.

Barratt Impulsiveness Scale-11 (BIS-11)

Barratt's 30-item scale for measuring impulsivity⁴³ can be used to evaluate attentional impulsivity, motor impulsivity, and non-planning impulsivity. It is used in South Korea after being translated into Korean by Lee et al.⁴⁴ The Cronbach's α on this scale is 0.780.

Procedures

The Korean Smartphone Addiction Proneness Scale (SAPS) and Young's Internet Addiction Scale (YIAT) were administered to students at three elementary and three middle schools in Daegu Metropolitan City and North Gyeongsang Province. For 8 weeks, MT and CBT homeworks were prescribed to 70 randomly selected participants (CBT-MT group), while the remaining 85 participants were required to join a CBT program, in the form of HDJ, only. MT was administered by a group of 6–8 students attending the same school as the participant, and a psychiatrist and a music therapist visited the school's group counseling room. In both groups, MT and CBT were held for a total of 8 sessions. Each session lasted for 75 minutes, with the initial 10 minutes used to identify the CBT homework task. The CBT-only group was supervised by a psychologist. Similar to the CBT-MT group, the 10 minutes were used to identify the CBT homework task.

Music therapy

MT is "a clinical technique that uses music as a medium of therapy to help improve and rehabilitate the human mental, emotional, social, and physical health".⁴⁵ MT includes improvising, composing/writing, performing, and singing, and is known to alleviate the symptoms in various mental disorders, including depression, dementia, ADHD, and autism spectrum disorders.^{25,26,46-51} In this study, MT was based on the game and immersion MT program manual⁵² validated by the National Association of Korean Music Therapists. The details of the program were as follows.

In the first session, the therapists and participants formed a rapport by introducing themselves using songs and various types of percussion (each selecting their desired instrument), creating a rhythm for the four nights together, and combining Nanta scores according to the direction and performance of the therapist. In the second session, the participants presented an emotional card to the group, found a matching percussion sound, wrote the lyrics suggested by the therapist, performed on the musical instrument of their choice, and read their narrated personal histories with games. In the third session, the participants drew upon their cravings of the games, explored their emotions, and checked external and internal factors through lyrics, rhythmic chanting, and playing instruments. The fourth session allowed participants to think about

the consequences of behavioral patterns, express emotions, and form empathy with them, and explore the reasons and motivations for game control on their own by working on rap lyrics. In the fifth session, the participants took turns conducting and performing percussion music to improve their leadership and ability to control their behavior, and wrote lyrics by singing "My Power" songs so that they could reflect on themselves. In the sixth and seventh sessions, the participants created a song together using worksheets and performed using sheet music that the therapist produced. Each person selected a percussion instrument that matched the song and allowed them to perform while singing, which provided the experience of behavioral control through modifying the lyrics, and a sense of feeling united and belonging. In the eighth session, the notes of the first seven sessions were recorded in files that were presented as gifts to the participants, followed by a completion ceremony for the parents and teachers.

Cognitive Behavior Therapy (CBT): Home Daily Journal writing (HDJ)

In this study, group CBT was conducted using a "Smart Me" HDJ, which is a revised version of the HDJ developed by Lee et al.²² The researchers²² reported that CBT, as home-based daily journal (HDJ) writing, was effective in smartphone addiction. Furthermore, HDJ could be effective outside of schools or clinics due to the ubiquitous nature of smartphones and internet. HDJ compensates for the shortcomings of conventional CBT because it is based on the patient's autonomy and carries less stigma. Whereas the current HDJ content focuses primarily on recording and evaluating the use of smartphones, the "Smart Me" HDJ adds a weekly cognitive behavioral therapy written task, administered by a psychologist or a psychiatrist, to the process. The revised "Smart Me" HDJ was used as CBT Homeworks every week during the entire treatment period. However, a two-week supplementary assignment and worksheet were attached to the version used at the Game Immersion Healing Center in North Gyeongsang Province.

Statistical analysis

Independent t-test and χ^2 test were performed to compare the baseline sociodemographic characteristics between the groups. In order to analyze the primary endpoints of SAPS and YIAT, the change in both scales was analyzed using paired t-test. Analysis of covariance (ANCOVA) was used to compare the mean pre- and post-intervention scores between the two groups. The covariates were the average weekly smartphone use time, SSS, and PACS, and were statistically significantly different between the two groups at baseline. Finally, last-observation-carried-forward (LOCF) analysis was performed on the missing data.

In order to analyze the changes in the psychological tests (SAIC, TAIC, RSES, BDI-II, CASS(S), and BIS-11) as the secondary endpoints, each group was analyzed using paired t-test before and after the treatment. Independent t-test was performed to analyze the differences between the groups.

All statistical analyses were performed using SPSS version 18.0 (SPSS Inc., Chicago, IL, USA) with $p < 0.05$ set as the level of statistical significance.

RESULTS

Of the 155 participants, 17 were lost to follow-up; 3 (4.3%) in the CBT-MT group and 14 (20%) in the CBT group. Finally, 67 and 71 participants in the CBT-MT and CBT groups,

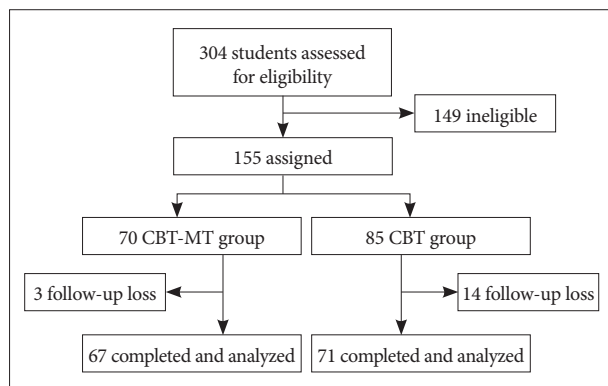


Figure 1. Flowchart depicting the study design. MT: music therapy, CBT: cognitive behavioral therapy.

respectively, were analyzed (Figure 1). The chi-square test revealed a beneficial effect of MT on treatment compliance when added to CBT ($\chi^2=5.837$, $df=1$, $p=0.016$).

Sociodemographic data

There was no statistically significant difference between the two groups in terms of the age, sex, parental marital status, self-reported school performance, and weekly average time spent on internet games. However, the weekly smartphone usage time was significantly higher in the CBT group (18.61 ± 11.982 hour) than that in the CBT-MT group (11.85 ± 11.648 hour) ($t=3.356$, $p=0.001$). SSS and PACS were also higher in the CBT group (98.13 ± 16.000 and 77.73 ± 13.422 , respectively) than those in the CBT-MT group (91.24 ± 16.883 and 71.34 ± 14.965 , respectively) ($t=2.461$, $p=0.015$ and $t=2.643$, $p=0.009$, respectively) (Table 1).

Effect of behavioral interventions on smartphone/internet addiction

SAPS and YIAT were significantly reduced after the interventions in both groups. SAPS in the CBT-MT group decreased from 32.75 ± 8.619 to 26.48 ± 10.970 ($t=-5.880$, $p < 0.001$). YIAT in the CBT-MT group also decreased from 46.79 ± 13.800 to 32.16 ± 19.245 ($t=-7.373$, $p < 0.001$). In the CBT group, SAPS decreased from 33.42 ± 6.487 to 28.65 ± 7.968 ($t=-6.300$, $p < 0.001$) and YIAT decreased from 46.24 ± 14.537 to 37.61 ± 14.550 ($t=-4.124$, $p < 0.001$). In terms of the differences in the mean values before and after the intervention

Table 1. Sociodemographic characteristics of the participants

Characteristics	CBT-MT (N=67)	CBT (N=71)	t or χ^2	p
Age (mean \pm SD)	12.46 \pm 1.778	12.68 \pm 1.933	t=0.674	0.502
Sex			$\chi^2=1.055$	0.304
Male	30 (44.8)	38 (53.5)		
Female	37 (55.2)	33 (46.5)		
Parent marital status			$\chi^2=1.166$	0.558
Married	61 (91.0)	67 (94.4)		
Divorced	3 (4.5)	3 (4.2)		
Widowed	3 (4.5)	1 (1.4)		
Self-reported school performance			$\chi^2=1.164$	0.559
High grade	23 (34.3)	25 (35.2)		
Middle grade	39 (58.2)	37 (52.1)		
Low grade	5 (7.5)	9 (12.7)		
Time on smartphone use for a week (mean \pm SD, hour)	11.85 \pm 11.648	18.61 \pm 11.982	t=3.356	0.001
Time on Internet game use for a week (mean \pm SD, hour)	8.36 \pm 12.520	9.83 \pm 9.830	t=0.765	0.445
SSS	91.24 \pm 16.883	98.13 \pm 16.000	t=2.461	0.015
PACS	71.34 \pm 14.965	77.73 \pm 13.422	t=2.643	0.009

MT: music therapy, CBT: cognitive behavioral therapy, SD: standard deviation, N: number of patients, SSS: Children's Social Support Scale, PACS: Parent-Adolescent Communication scales

between the groups, SAPS demonstrated no significant difference, while the magnitude of reduction in YIAT was significantly greater in the CBT-MT group than that in the CBT group ($Z=5.137, p=0.025$) (Table 2).

Effects of behavioral interventions on comorbid symptoms

In the CBT-MT group, SAIC ($t=-5.157, p<0.001$), TAIC ($t=-3.819, p<0.001$), ADHD (CASS(S)) ($t=-2.015, p=0.048$), and impulsivity (BIS-11) ($t=-3.859, p<0.001$) decreased significantly after the interventions; however, only SAIC ($t=-2.953, p=0.004$) decreased in the CBT group. The CBT-MT group also demonstrated larger differences after the interventions

in SAIC ($t=-2.040, p=0.043$), TAIC ($t=-2.585, p=0.011$), and impulsivity ($t=-2.571, p=0.012$) than did the CBT group. There was no scale in which the CBT group had bigger effect than the CBT-MT group (Table 3).

DISCUSSION

To our knowledge, our study investigating the effects of dual intervention with MT and CBT material in smartphone/internet addiction is the first of its kind. The aim of this study was to investigate the effects of 8 weeks of combined MT and task of CBT in teenagers with smartphone/internet addiction. The findings revealed that SAPS and YIAT were signifi-

Table 2. Differences of addiction scales between before and after intervention

	Before	After	Paired t test		Difference	ANCOVA	
	Mean±SD	Mean±SD	t	p	Mean±SD	Z	p
SAPS						2.444	0.120
CBT-MT	32.75±8.619	26.48±10.970	-5.880	<0.001*	6.27±8.726		
CBT	33.42±6.487	28.65±7.968	-6.300	<0.001*	4.77±6.386		
YIAT						5.137	0.025*
CBT-MT	46.79±13.800	32.16±19.245	-7.373	<0.001*	14.63±16.237		
CBT	46.24±14.537	37.61±14.550	-4.124	<0.001*	8.63±17.640		

* $p<0.05$. ANCOVA: time use on smartphone use for a week, SSS, PACS as covariates; MT: music therapy, CBT: cognitive behavioral therapy, SD: standard deviation, SAPS: Korean Smartphone Addiction Proneness Scale, YIAT: Young's Internet Addiction Test

Table 3. Differences in psychometric test scores between before and after intervention

	Before	After	Paired t test		Difference	Independent t test	
	Mean±SD	Mean±SD	t	p	Mean±SD	t	p
SAIC						-2.040	0.043*
CBT-MT	30.10±8.486	23.79±10.987	-5.157	<0.001*	6.31±10.020		
CBT	28.52±8.353	25.46±7.119	-2.953	0.004*	3.06±8.721		
TAIC						-2.585	0.011*
CBT-MT	31.79±10.531	25.91±13.912	-3.819	<0.001*	5.88±12.605		
CBT	28.25±7.958	26.93±7.586	-1.544	0.127	1.32±7.225		
RSES						-1.319	0.190
CBT-MT	29.88±6.193	28.73±11.537	-0.914	0.362	1.15±10.293		
CBT	32.32±5.930	33.06±5.813	1.088	0.281	-0.73±5.674		
BDI-II						-0.623	0.534
CBT-MT	6.93±7.828	4.85±8.794	-1.772	0.081	2.07±9.584		
CBT	6.45±8.101	5.25±8.232	-1.482	0.143	1.20±6.805		
CASS(S)						-1.357	0.178
CBT-MT	18.48±15.328	14.70±14.171	-2.015	0.048*	3.78±15.336		
CBT	14.35±11.856	13.51±12.323	-0.787	0.434	0.85±9.053		
BIS-11						-2.571	0.012*
CBT-MT	55.91±15.218	45.25±23.185	-3.859	<0.001*	10.66±22.606		
CBT	60.28±13.228	57.62±12.702	-1.861	0.067	2.66±12.051		

* $p<0.05$. MT: music therapy, CBT: cognitive behavioral therapy, SD: standard deviation, SAIC: State Anxiety Inventory for Children, TAIC: Trait Anxiety Inventory for children, RSES: Rosenberg Self Esteem Scale, BDI-II: Beck Depression Inventory-II, CASS(S): Conners-Wells' Adolescent Self-Report Scale (Short Form), BIS-11: Barratt Impulsiveness Scale-11

cantly decreased in both groups, while YIAT decreased significantly more in the CBT-MT group than the CBT group. This is consistent with the results of a prior study,²² which reported that CBT as HDJ writing was effective in smartphone/internet addiction. Particularly, YIAT < 40 is classified as normal, and the average score decreased to < 40 points in both groups after the intervention, thus, confirming that MT and CBT are effective in internet addiction.

Recently, there has been a huge controversy over whether smartphone and internet addictions are illnesses. Indeed, they do not have clear psychiatric definitions and further research is needed to formulate evidence-based treatment guidelines.⁵³ However, psychiatric interventions can be helpful if smartphone/internet addiction is severe enough to affect everyday life.⁵⁴

The effects of CBT on internet/smartphone addiction have been extensively studied, and it is currently the first-line of treatment for smartphone/internet addiction. Additionally, CBT is regarded as the primary approach to effectively correct non-adaptive automatic thinking.⁵⁵ Our findings validate previous studies and suggest that CBT as HDJ writing was effective for smartphone/internet addiction in adolescents.

The dual intervention group demonstrated significant improvements, not only in the symptoms of smartphone/internet addiction, but also in those of anxiety, ADHD, and impulsiveness. In contrast, improvements were only observed in state anxiety and smartphone/internet addiction in the CBT group. Therefore, the addition of MT to CBT was effective for comorbid psychiatric symptoms as well. Additionally, in the dual intervention group, the mean of the differences between pre- and post-intervention values decreased significantly as compared with the values in the CBT group for symptoms of internet addiction, state anxiety, trait anxiety, and impulsivity. We believe that this significant difference is due to the synergistic effects of MT and CBT.

MT not only relaxes the participant emotionally, and allows him/her to experience intimacy with the therapist and group members, but it also encourages doing CBT homeworks, induces interest in the therapy, and adaptation to it. Although a previous study demonstrated the effectiveness of MT in depression, we did not find any significant reduction in the depression scale.²⁵ This difference may be because the participants' BDI-II baseline value was very low (6.93 ± 7.828 in the CBT-MT group and 6.45 ± 8.101 in the CBT group). Further studies are required to highlight the effects of MT on smartphone/internet addiction with depression.

One of the biggest difficulties of psychotherapy in children and adolescents is compliance.^{56,57} According to one study, 22% of children and adolescents in the treatment group, did not attend their first session of therapy.⁵⁸ Of the 155 partici-

pants in this study, 3 (4.3%) in the CBT-MT group and 14 (20%) in the CBT group were excluded from the analyses because they did not complete the study. The higher participation rate in CBT-MT group is believed to be due to the strengths of a well-developed art therapy program.⁵⁹ These strengths include: 1) the use of music, art, and physical education to maximize interest; 2) the participation of parents and teachers; 3) involvement of a psychiatrist; 4) decreased stigma as compared with psychotherapy; and 5) when it is administered at school, it is similar to attending after-school classes. This is consistent with the findings of Saba et al.,⁶⁰ who also reported that art therapy achieved a high rate of participation. Therefore, it can be more effective to combine CBT with art therapy.

There were some limitations in this study. First, there was a significant difference between the two groups in terms of the weekly average time of smartphone use, SSS, and PACS. Furthermore, the CBT-MT group was not similar to the CBT group; therefore, ANCOVA was performed using three covariates. In future studies, stratified randomization of sociodemographic variables should be considered. Secondly, the smartphone/internet addiction scales used in this study differed from the diagnostic criteria of internet gaming disorder in DSM-5 or gaming disorder in ICD-11. In future studies, it will be necessary to confirm whether the subjects satisfy the diagnostic criteria through psychiatric interviews. Thirdly, there was no evaluation regarding the maintenance of the effects of MT and CBT. According to Yeun and Han,⁶¹ reports on psychosocial interventions for internet addiction have failed to incorporate long-term follow-up, and the duration of the effects of psychosocial interventions is controversial. Therefore, it is necessary to include long-term follow-up as well. Fourthly, this study assumes that smartphone and internet addictions are similar because of previously reported similar pathologies between them;⁶² however, Jang et al.⁵⁹ suggest that further studies are needed to prove this hypothesis. While the classical perspective was based on internet addiction due to personal computers, it is limiting because of the development of newer devices such as smartphones and tablets. In the future, psychological and biological studies are necessary to investigate the differences between such addictions.

Currently, the global COVID-19 pandemic is causing social and economic problems. Quarantine, social distancing, and suspension from school for the purpose of public health can act as great stressors on individuals.⁶³ In addition, social isolation from COVID-19 raises the risk of depression, anxiety, and Hikikomori, which are closely related to internet addiction.^{64,65} Increased smartphone and internet usage due to COVID-19 increases the risk of smartphone internet addiction.⁶⁶ In accordance with this trend, changes are needed in the future treatment of smartphone internet addiction, and in

particular, a non-face-to-face treatment method needs to be developed to reduce the risk of infectious diseases and increase accessibility. Therefore, for the next step, we plan to develop the following: 1) music therapy through a non-face-to-face video conference, and 2) music therapy and CBT using smartphone applications.

In conclusion, the findings of this study demonstrated that the use of 8 weeks of dual intervention in the form of MT and CBT in teenagers with smartphone/internet addiction resulted in a significant decrease in the symptoms of these addictions with high treatment compliance. Furthermore, combination therapy can be particularly beneficial for anxiety and impulsiveness. Future studies are required to investigate the long term effects of these therapeutic interventions.

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Conflicts of Interest

The authors have no potential conflicts of interest to disclose.

Author Contributions

Conceptualization: all authors. Data curation: all authors. Formal analysis: all authors. Investigation: all authors. Methodology: all authors. Supervision: all authors. Validation: all authors. Visualization: all authors. Writing—original draft: all authors. Writing—review & editing: all authors.

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