

Meta-meta-analysis of the effectiveness of parent training for the treatment of children with externalizing symptoms and disorders

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### Citation

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### Review question

How effective is parent training in treating externalizing symptoms and disorders in children. How big is the impact of parent training on child behavior and on parental characteristics (parenting, parental mental health, parental perceptions and parental relationship).

### Searches

We have searched the following electronic databases: MEDLINE, PubMed, and PsycINFO. The search strategy included terms relating to type of intervention, age of children and review type. In PsycINFO we only searched title and abstract. No further limits were applied. The search terms will be re-run just before the final analyses and further studies retrieved for inclusion.

### Types of study to be included

We have included English and German meta-analyses that focus on the effectiveness of parent based interventions for children with externalizing symptoms and disorders, not only in a preventive setting.

### Condition or domain being studied

Childhood externalizing symptoms and disorders, child behaviour, parenting behaviour, parental mental health, parental perceptions and parental relationship.

### Participants/population

Children with externalizing symptoms or disorders and their parents.

### Intervention(s), exposure(s)

Parent based interventions for the treatment of mental disorders or behavior problems in children, but not in an exclusive preventive setting.

Examples include parent training delivered individually or in groups as well as interventions on parent-child-interaction.

### Comparator(s)/control

Meta-analyses include active as well as inactive control groups and uncontrolled studies.

### Primary outcome(s)

Changes in child behavior as well as in parenting behavior, parental mental health, parental perceptions and parental relationship as measured by parent report, independent report or observation (immediately after completion of parent training and at follow-up).

### Secondary outcome(s)

Quality of included meta-analyses according to PRISMA Statement.

### Data extraction (selection and coding)

## PROSPERO

### International prospective register of systematic reviews

#### Risk of bias (quality) assessment

Quality of every meta-analysis will be assessed independently by two reviewers according to PRISMA statement using the PRISMA 2009 Checklist (Liberati et al., 2009). Each item will be rated on a 3-point scale coding 0 ("item not fulfilled"), 1 ("item partially fulfilled") or 2 ("item completely fulfilled"). Inter-rater reliability will be assessed.

#### Strategy for data synthesis

The effect estimates of each meta-analysis will be transformed to standardized mean effect (SMD) using a random-effects model. For each outcome an overall SMD will be computed from meta-analyses. Each meta-analysis contributes only one effect size to meta-meta-analysis. If a meta-analysis provides multiple effect sizes for one outcome, estimates will be averaged into a single effect size. Measures of consistency will be calculated.

To take overlap of primary studies into account, for each primary study the number of meta-analyses in which it is included is determined and an adjusted number of primary studies will be calculated for each meta-analysis. This adjusted number will serve as a weighting factor in the calculation of SMD.

#### Analysis of subgroups or subsets

If the necessary data are available, effect sizes will be estimated for different sources of information (parent report vs. observation). Because meta-analyses do not consistently report information on subgroups, further subgroup analyses are limited.

#### Contact details for further information

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#### Organisational affiliation of the review

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05 January 2015

#### Anticipated completion date

31 May 2016

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None

#### Conflicts of interest

None known

#### Language

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Germany

### Stage of review

Review\_Ongoing

### Subject index terms status

Subject indexing assigned by CRD

### Subject index terms

Child; Child Behavior Disorders; Humans; Parent-Child Relations; Parents

### Date of registration in PROSPERO

15 March 2016

### Date of publication of this version

15 March 2016

### Details of any existing review of the same topic by the same authors

### Stage of review at time of this submission

Stage	Started	Completed
Preliminary searches	Yes	Yes
Piloting of the study selection process	Yes	Yes
Formal screening of search results against eligibility criteria	Yes	Yes
Data extraction	Yes	No
Risk of bias (quality) assessment	No	No
Data analysis	No	No

### Versions

15 March 2016

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#### PROSPERO

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