

Psychotherapeutic Models



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Efficacy of Psychotherapy for PMADs

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- Psychotherapy is an effective treatment for even severe PPD.
- *“Rather than using medication as a first-line treatment, it could be reserved for more severe depression that does not respond to counseling.”*
- *APA: Treating Postpartum Depression* <http://www.apa.org/monitor/2011/02/postpartum.aspx>



O’Hara MW, Stuart S, Gorman LL, Wenzel A (2000) Efficacy of interpersonal psychotherapy for postpartum depression. *Arch Gen Psychiatry* 57:1039–1045

Components of Perinatal Counseling

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- Psychoeducational, supportive
- Skills, tools & crisis management
- Frequent contact while acute
- Parenting resources
- Support system development
- Resources—access & awareness
- Evaluation of mother-baby/family interactions
- Couples and/or Family therapy
- Referrals and follow-up

Working w/ a knowledgeable,
understanding provider you can trust—
Hopefully!

Evidence Based Perinatal Therapies

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- Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT)
- Interpersonal Psychotherapy (IPT)
- Peer Support (Groups or Telephone)
- Group Therapy
- Mother-Infant Therapy and Education
- Partner-Assisted Therapy
- Couples/Family Therapy



*Bledsoe, S.E. and Grote, N.K. Research on Social Work Practice. 2006:16, 109-120;
Brandon, A. et al. Arch Womens Ment Health (2012) 15:469-480*

Length of Therapy

5

“Conventional wisdom is that psychotherapeutic treatments for mild to moderate depression should be provided for 10-12 weeks”

Stuart. O’ Hara, & Gorman (2003) *Archives of Women’s Mental Health*, 6(2), 57-69.

Treatment length varies based on many factors, including client’s needs and openness to therapy and therapist’s competence and rapport with client.

Stages of Recovery

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- Acute Symptoms
- Initial recovery: resolution of acute stage
- First slump
- Transient symptoms: ups and downs
- Resolving
- Recovering Confidence
- Grieving
- Finding meaning

Transformed by Postpartum Depression: Women's Stories of Trauma and Growth by Walker Karraa , 2015

3 Phases of Perinatal Psychotherapy

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- **Phase 1: Evaluation, Crisis Intervention & Rapport**
 - Evaluation, diagnosis, education, crisis management tools, couple/family involvement
 - GOAL: Diagnosis, acute symptom relief & rapport
- **Phase 2: “The Work”**
 - Therapeutic interventions, grief work, education, tools, skills, etc...
 - GOAL: “Overcoming, becoming...”
- **Phase 3: Making Sense & Moving Forward**
 - Revisiting the past, finding meaning, personal growth, plan for future
 - GOAL: skills of “...flourishing!”

Hibbert, www.DrChristinaHibbert.com



*“Put out the fire before you
rewire the house”*

~Susan Hickman, Ph.D., MFCC

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PSYCHOTHERAPEUTIC APPROACHES

Cognitive Behavioral Therapy



Cognitive Behavioral Therapy

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- Current psychological research → there are specific patterns of thinking during certain moods
- These particular thinking patterns can cause us problems because they actually help maintain and even exaggerate our moods
- CBT is a holistic approach that emphasizes the connections among mind, body, mood, behavior & environment

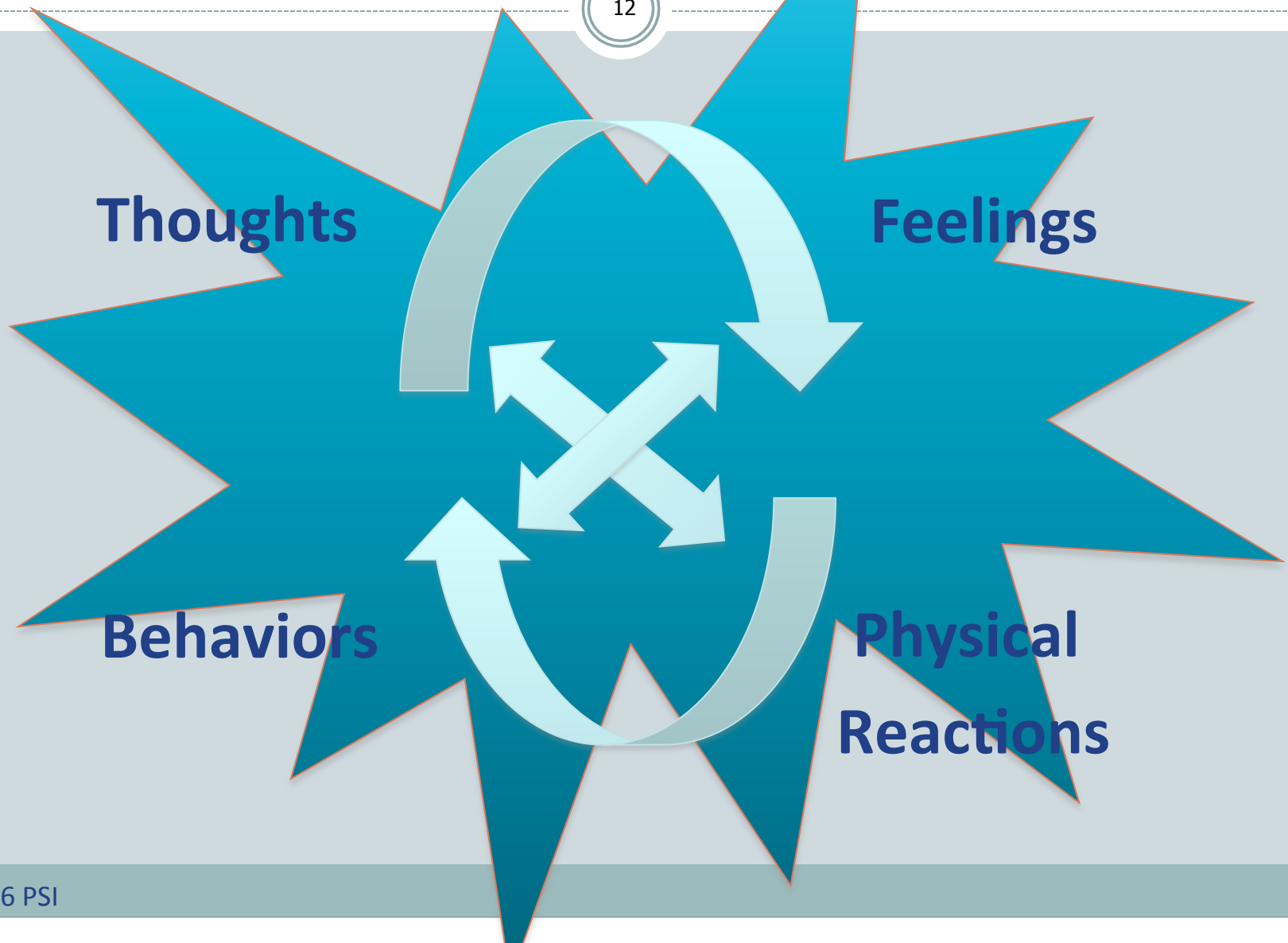
Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy

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- Aaron Beck, MD
 - “founding father of Cognitive Therapy”
 - beckinstitute.org
 - padesky.com
- Thought or symptom-based method
- CBT looks at “automatic thoughts” or images that often precede, accompany, and follow depression, anxiety, and panic.

Cognitive-Behavioral Model

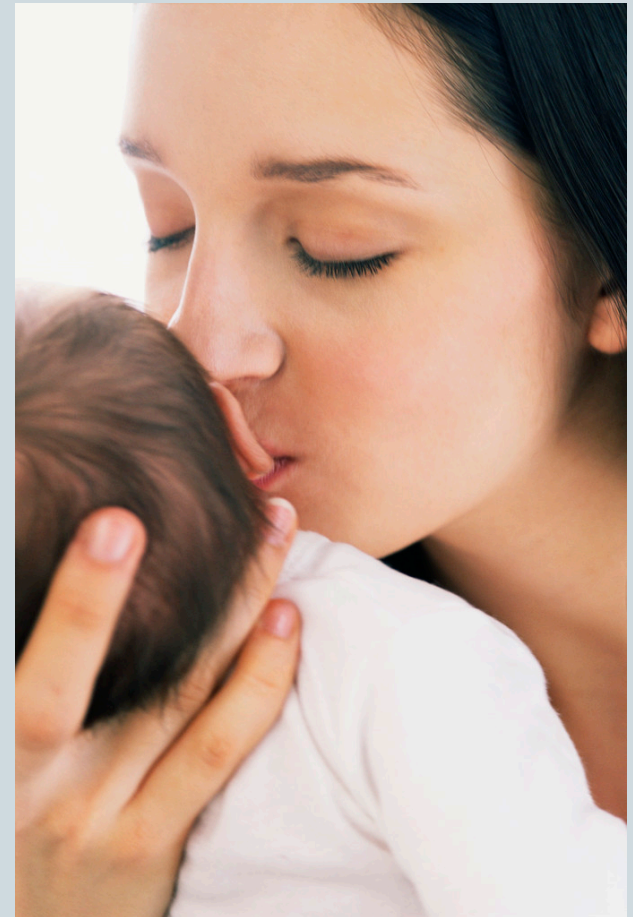
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Common CBT Components

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- Collaborative approach
- Psycho-Educational
- Relaxation Training:
 - ✦ Diaphragmatic breathing
 - ✦ Progressive muscle relaxation
- Desensitization/Exposure Therapy
- Assertiveness training
- Cognitive restructuring



CBT Goals

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- Evaluate thoughts and strengths
- Identify triggers
- Look for evidence to support and/or dispute automatic thoughts and cognitive distortions
- Develop alternative explanations/thoughts
- Develop coping plans
- Teach coping strategies
- Foster resilience

CBT: Initial Sessions

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- Establish rapport and trust
- Educate client about her disorder
- Explain cognitive model and therapy process
- Normalize her difficulties and instill hope
- Determine and, if necessary, correct any expectations about therapy
- Collect additional information about client's problems and strengths
- Set therapeutic goals together

Judith Beck (2011) *Cognitive Behavior Therapy, Second Edition: Basics and Beyond*

Cognitive Restructuring

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- Identify automatic thoughts
- Connection between thought & feeling
- Evaluate thoughts/Look for Cognitive Distortions
- Explore and modify underlying beliefs
- Differentiate between realistic and unrealistic threats
- Develop alternate perspectives

CBT: Tools—Thought Record (Part 2)

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Date	Situation Briefly Describe: <i>"What's going on?"</i>	Automatic Thought(s) <i>"What do I hear myself saying?"</i> <i>"What's going through my head?"</i> <i>"What sentences do I hear?"</i> Write your stream of automatic thoughts.	Emotion(s) <i>"What am I feeling?"</i> 1. Identify/list emotions-- sad, angry, frustrated... (There is usually more than one.) 2. Rate, 1-10	Alternative or Rational Response ("The Truth" or "Reality") <i>"How else might I look at this?"</i> <i>"What is really happening?"</i> Write an alternative to the automatic thoughts.	Outcome <i>"How do I feel now?"</i> Identify and rate emotions, 1-10, after the rational response.

Common Perinatal Cognitive Restructuring Themes

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- Identity loss/shifts
- Relationship changes/ role conflicts
- Loss/grief
- Self-esteem/self-worth
- Self-care
- Guilt
- Emotional overload (anger, fear, worry, frustration...

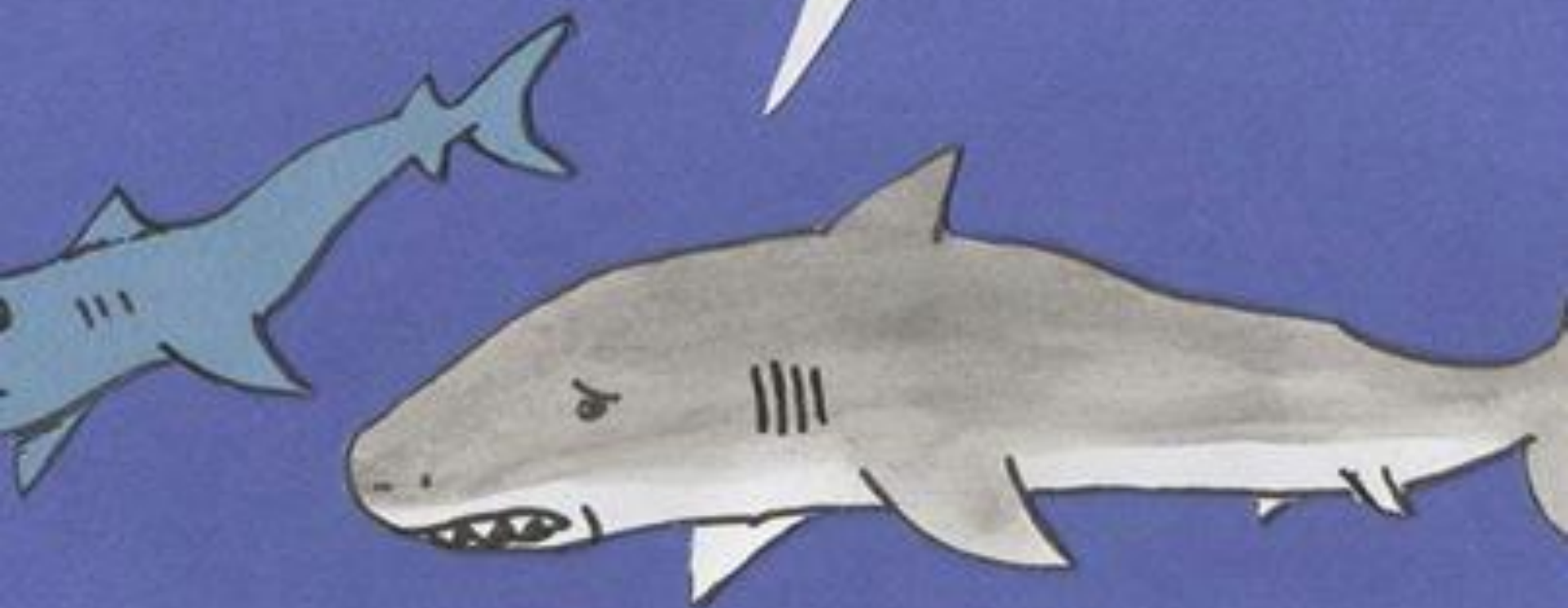


$$\text{ANXIETY} = \frac{\text{PERCEIVED DANGER}}{\text{COPING SKILLS}}$$

With anxiety

- We overestimate the danger or threat
- We underestimate our coping tools and ability to cope

THE PRESSURE TO BE **GREAT**
IS TOO MUCH. I WOULD RATHER
BE KNOWN AS THE "JUST O.K.
WHITE SHARK".



Goals of CBT programs for anxiety

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- Reduce physical hypervigilance
 - Relaxation training
 - Deep Breathing
 - Mindfulness
 - Clinical hypnosis (Eriksonian)
- Take away the danger
 - Focus on objective evidence
 - Distinguish true versus false alarms
 - Offer alternatives—cognitive restructuring
- Increase perceived control
 - Problem-solving and available options

Goals of CBT programs for anxiety

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- Recognize anxiety as an alarm
 - See it for what it is
 - Tolerate the signal
 - FEEL
 - Assertiveness
 - See behavioral *options*
- Exposure to feared symptoms and situations
 - Exception: intrusive thoughts/images
 - May practice with visualization

CBT for OCD

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Dr. Jeffrey Schwartz's Four Steps

- Step 1: Re-label
- Step 2: Reattribute
- Step 3: Refocus
- Step 4: Revalue



<http://hope4ocd.com/foursteps.php>

J. Schwartz. 1997. *Brain Lock: Free Yourself from Obsessive-Compulsive Behavior*

Step 1 Relabel

- Notice and name the thoughts
- “It’s the OCD...”

Step 2 Reattribute

- It’s not me, it’s the OCD
- It’s my brain illness/short circuit/biochem

- **Step 3 Refocus**

- Shift attention
- Refocus behavior on a pleasurable activity
- Ideally for 15 min in beginning

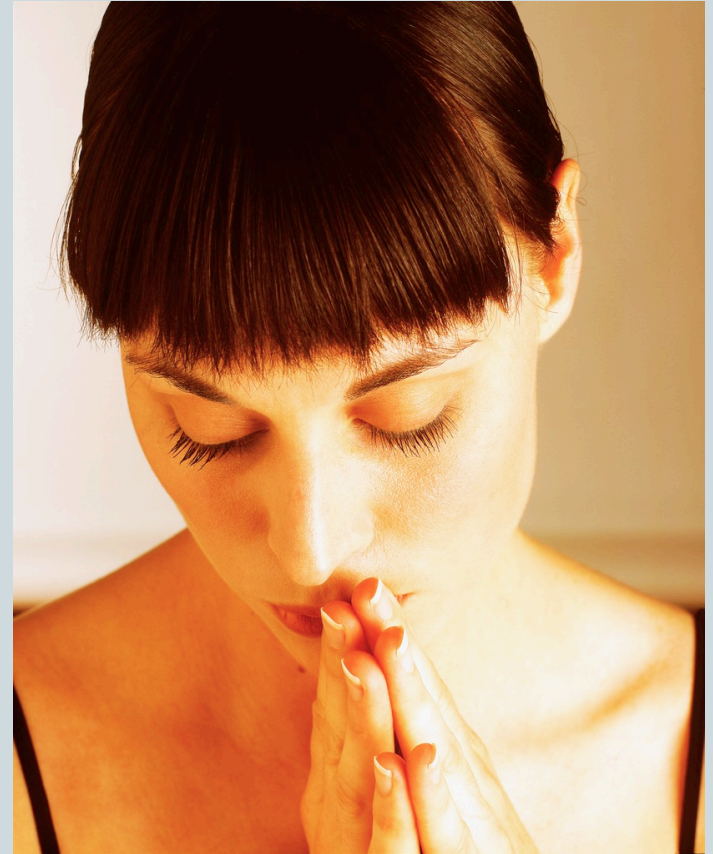
- **Step 4 Revalue**

- Thoughts \neq behaviors or actions
- Just a thought of no consequence or value

Internet Prevention and Treatment

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- CBT based prenatal treatment
- Small study in pregnant women with mild to moderate MDD 80% of participants showing treatment response and 60% showing remission over the course of eight sessions (Kim D. et al JOURNAL OF WOMEN'S HEALTH 2014(23)10)



CBT- Efficacy

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- Research has found CBT to be an effective treatment for a number of perinatal disorders: depression, panic, anxiety, PTSD, OCD.
- Relapse prevention rates are highest with combination therapies. CBT teaches *skills*.
- Low income pregnant women: modified CBT program → greater improvement in depressed mood than treatment group O'Mahen, H. et al. Depression and Anxiety 2013. 30:679–687)

CBT and PPD: Efficacy

28

In a study comparing SSRI's to CBT individual therapy:

- those in therapy had the same decrease in depressive symptoms *as those taking medication*
- Studies used the Hamilton Rating Scale-D and EPDS, pre and post-study (Appleby, Warner, Whitton and Faragher 1997, Misri S. et al J Clin Psychiatry. 2004 Sep;65(9):1236-41.)

Working With Trauma

A CBT Approach

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Core Tasks in Trauma Psychotherapy

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- Develop a collaborative therapeutic alliance
- Educate and facilitate awareness
- Reconceptualization of “problem” in a more hopeful, positive formulation
- Retelling or “restorying” process
 - “shattered assumptions” and rescripting

D. Meichenbaum, New Developments in Treatment of PTSD

Core Tasks in Trauma Psychotherapy

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- ▶ **Help client find meaning**
 - What did she do to survive?
 - Evidence of strengths in self
 - Lessons learned that can be shared
 - Role of spirituality
- ▶ **Help her re-engage in life and reconnect**

D. Meichenbaum, New Developments in Treatment of PTSD
Beck, CT, Driscoll, JW, Watson, S. 2013, *Traumatic Childbirth*

Self-Nurture & Self-Care (Feminist Theory)



Self-Care: Choose to Do It, or Life Will Make You!

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Night of...



3 Days Later...



Encouraging Self-Nurture (Feminist Theory)

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- Therapists help clients negotiate for their own personal space and/or time in relationships with others
- Therapists help clients assess and meet their own needs
- The development of a support network for fostering self-nurturance is stressed
- The client is encouraged to become less “tuned in” to other’ s needs, allowing others to develop their own self-nurturing practices
- *Remember:* These principles apply to the therapist, too--“Practice what you preach!”

Interpersonal Psychotherapy IPT



Interpersonal Therapy

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- Time-limited therapy (12-16 weeks)
- Manual based in research
- Empirically validated
- Depression occurs in an interpersonal context
- Modifies disrupted relationships or expectations
- Goal of treatment is symptom relief

Research on IPT Efficacy

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Systematic review of research published between 1995 and April 2013 on efficacy of IPT for PPD

- Included group IPT and Partner Assisted IPT, and IPT oriented preventive interventions for use in pregnancy
- IPT alone (or with meds), may shorten the time to recovery from PPD and prolong the time spent in clinical remission.

(Miniati, M. Arch Womens Ment Health. 2014 Aug;17(4):257-68)

Therapist's Stance

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- Patient advocate
- Unconditional positive regard
- Supportive, warm, genuine, empathetic
- Directive/active
- Psycho-educational
- Not using/discussing transference

IPT Strategies

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- Teach communication skills
- Model direct communication
- Role-playing
- Conjoint sessions for communication analysis

Interpersonal Therapy (IPT)

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IPT Focuses on Three Problem Areas:

1. Grief and Loss
2. Role Transitions
3. Interpersonal Disputes



- ▶ Directly addresses interpersonal problems
 - ▶ Goals
 - Reduce symptoms
 - Improve relationships and social support
 - ▶ Strengths-Based and collaborative
 - ▶ Short-Term Acute Treatment
- Interpersonal Psychotherapy, Clinician's Handbook, 2012 www.iptinstitute.com

3 Components of IPT

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1) **GRIEF:**

“Normal” vs. “Abnormal” Grief

Goals of Treatment:

- Hear the story
- Facilitate the mourning process
- Facilitate feelings and normalize
- Explore conflicted feelings about loss

3 Components of IPT

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2) **ROLE TRANSITIONS:**

Life-cycle transitions
Social transitions

Goals of treatment:

- Facilitation of grief
- Expression of affect
- Acquisition of new coping skills
- Development of new attachments
- Development of new social supports

3 Components of IPT

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3) Interpersonal Disputes: Identify stage of the dispute

Goals of Treatment:

- Modify communication patterns
- Reevaluate expectations in relationship
- Assist client in communicating needs
- Negotiate a settlement
- Often involves couples counseling

Interpersonal Psychotherapy During Pregnancy

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IPT for Depression in Pregnancy

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Initial phase

- Evaluate circumstances of conception and pregnancy
- Evaluate support systems
 - social, financial, emotional
- Interpersonal inventory

Spinelli, M. et al. J Clin Psychiatry 2013;74(4):393-399

IPT in Pregnancy

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Middle phase

- Interpersonal skill development
- New emotional equilibrium
- Encourage affective expression
- Significant others may be invited to work on interpersonal issues

IPT in Pregnancy

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Ending Therapy

- Affirm all that has been learned
- Create a postpartum plan

Spinelli M et al. J Clin Psychiatry 2013;74(4):393-399



IPT Postpartum: Initial Sessions

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Goals:

- Identifying postpartum depression as a medical disorder
- Placing depression in an interpersonal context- *interpersonal inventory*
- Reviewing patient's past and current interpersonal conflicts
- Client and therapist collaborate on identifying interpersonal problem areas most related
- Set treatment goals

IPT Postpartum: Intermediate Sessions

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Goals- Address the following:

- Conflicts with partner or extended family
- Loss of social/ work relationships
- Losses associated with birth
 - Previous perinatal loss
 - Identity loss
- Death of significant others

IPT Strategies - Postpartum

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Role Transitions:

- Loss of independence
- Transition to parent role
- Need for social support in new role
- Decision to stay home or work

IPT Strategies - Postpartum

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Role transitions:

- Grief of loss of old role
- Poor adaptation to new role
- Rejection of new role

IPT Strategies - Postpartum

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Interpersonal Disputes:

- Discuss unmet expectations about infant care
- Discuss intimacy including sexuality
- Goals of treatment:
 - Modify communication patterns
 - Re-evaluate expectations in the relationship
 - Assist client to communicate her needs
 - Negotiation skills

IPT Postpartum: Final Sessions

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Goals:

- Therapist reinforces patient's competence in overcoming depression/ anxiety
- Discuss plans for termination of therapy
- Works with patient to determine a plan should the depression reoccur

IPT Efficacy

55

- IPT is the best validated treatment for postpartum depression and should be considered first-line treatment, especially for depressed breastfeeding **women**. (Stuart, S. *Clinical Psychology and Psychotherapy* Clin. Psychol. Psychother. 19, 134–140 (2012))
- Superiority of IPT to CBT for the treatment of perinatal depression; greater decreases in symptoms from pretreatment to post-treatment (Sokol LE *Clin Psychol Rev.* 2011 July ; 31(5): 839–849)

Group Psychotherapy

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Therapeutic Factors in Groups

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- Altruism
- Imitative Behavior
- Interpersonal Learning
- Group Cohesiveness
- Catharsis
- Existential Factors

I am not the only one!!!

- Instillation of Hope
- Universality
- Imparting Information
- Corrective Recapitulation of Family
- Development of Socializing Techniques

I. Yalom, *The Theory and Practice of Group Psychotherapy*, 4th Edition, Basic Books, 1995.

Group Psychotherapy- Perinatal

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- Decision: Psychotherapy or Support Group?
- Format: Open vs. closed group
- Screening participants?
- Ground rules: confidentiality, boundaries, etc
- Informed consent forms
- Fee schedule
- Educational components
- Babies welcome?
- Partners or other support people?

Group Psychotherapy-CBT—Efficacy

59

- 6 week program-statistically significant reduction in anxiety and depressive symptoms following the CBGT program
- Participants also reported high acceptability and satisfaction with this treatment for addressing their perinatal anxiety.

Group Psychotherapy- Perinatal

60

- Prevention vs treatment group
- Mulcahy, R. Arch Womens Ment Health (2010)13:125–139
- Spinelli, MG. Et al. J Clin Psychiatry. 2013 Apr;74(4):393-9.
- Scope et al. BMC Psychiatry 2013, 13:321
- Green, S. Et al. Arch Womens Ment Health (2015)18:631–638

COUPLES THERAPY

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Couple's Therapy

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“Comprehensive care of a woman with PPD must include an assessment of her family system and, when indicated, treatment that extends beyond the woman as an individually identified patient.” *Apfel and Handel, in Miller (1999)*

“Always assume you’re working with a family.”



Why Couple's Therapy?

63

- Partner support has a measurable effect on women experiencing PMADs (Misri, S., Kostaras, X., Fox, D., and Kostaras, D., Can J Psychiatry. 2000 Aug;45(6):554-8).
- Marital Disharmony is the most commonly cited non-biological “cause” of PPD (Stuart S, O'Hara MW. Arch Gen Psychiatry. 1995 Jan; 52(1):75- 6).
- Synthesis of 48 studies in pregnancy and postpartum found 10% of men were depressed
<http://jama.jamanetwork.com/article.aspx?articleid=185905>)
- Couple's therapy allows treatment for each individual as well as the partnership to ensure proper communication, understanding and support between mothers and fathers.

Couple's Therapy

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- **Couple's Sessions**
 - Observe communication, interactions and sensitivities
 - Baby is often included in joint sessions, in order to give the therapist an opportunity to observe attachment, bonding, and parenting styles

Couple's Therapy--Benefits

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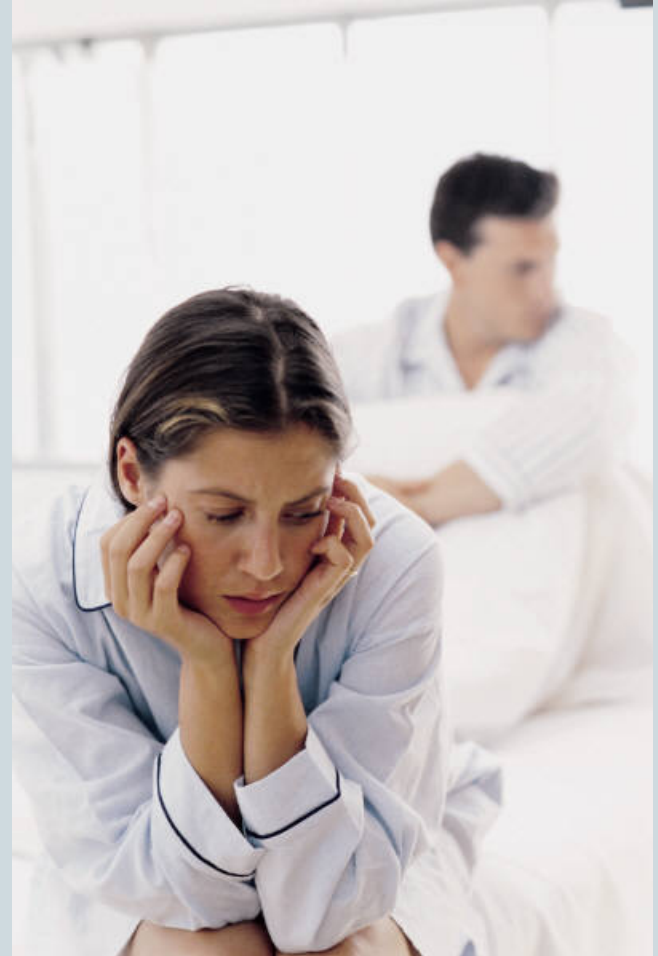
- Mother feels this is not just her problem
- Partner is able to take a role treatment and an active support role
- Partner can receive assessment/treatment for any underlying depression/anxiety/other issues
- Therapist can assess relationship directly—no misunderstandings
- Therapist can observe interactions with the baby, cooperation with each other, etc. *(Apfel & Handel, in Miller, 1999)*

Couple's Therapy Themes

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Specific issues to address:

- Grief and different forms of grieving
- Identity changes
- Role Transitions/ difficulties
- Communication difficulties
- Intimacy- (may include Sex Therapy)



Couple's Therapy Goals

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- Provide a safe place for each partner to share
- Remain neutral
- Educate couple
- Normalize the experience (they will be well)
- Serve as “translator” and “coach”
- Serve as grief counselor
- Help establish support systems and resources

Couple's Therapy--Strategies

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- Communication analysis
- Teach communication skills
- Model direct communication
- Role playing
- Identify and alter unrealistic thoughts/expectations
- Teach problem-solving skills
- Teach anger management skills
- Use “permission-giving” to foster self-care
- Teach/model parenting skills

Partner Assisted IPT

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- Goal of PA-IPT is for the partner to become a literal therapy “partner,” extending the therapy to life between sessions.

Brandon A. et al. Arch Womens Ment Health (2012) 15:469–480

Partner Assisted-IPT Goals

70

- Identifying the existing maternal and paternal stressors
- Identifying the dyadic expectations each hold around the roles of “mother” and “father”
- Uncovering core emotions around the stressors and expectations, exploring the realities and modifying appraisals where indicated
- Enlisting the partner in accepting the woman’s feelings and responding in a “language” that she perceives as supportive

PA-IPT

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- Assessing the couple's interactions, illuminating negativity and experimenting with more positive interchanges
- Increasing the partner's emotional and instrumental support, thereby reducing the maternal stressors

Couple's Therapy Challenges

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- Childcare
- Partner willingness to attend therapy
- Neutrality by therapist
- Secret-keeping by therapist
- Domestic Violence (couple's sessions are generally contraindicated if DV is present)

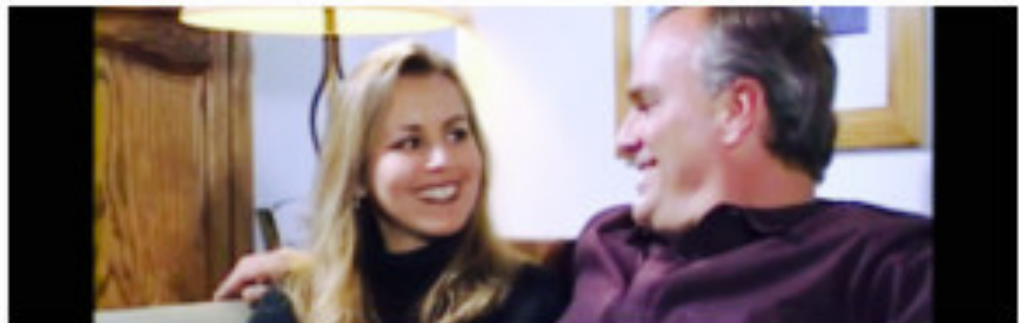


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Postpartum Couples DVD

Mother-Infant Therapies

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Supporting Positive Attachment

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- Support and Intervention
- Assessing disruption in bonding and attachment
- Evidence-based approaches to facilitate secure attachment



Impact on Bonding & Attachment

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- Dysregulation of sensitivity and responsivity
- Mother's self-criticism
- Avoidance of connection
- Anxious Mothering
- Isolation from social support
 - Overwhelmed
 - Fear of being seen
 - No community learning



Source: Adv Neonatal Care © 2003 W. B. Saunders

Methods of Intervention

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- Psycho-educational
- Supportive: Reducing Stress for mother
- Developmental & Relational Guidance
- Adult Psychotherapy
- Parent-Infant Psychotherapy
- Infant Massage

Psycho-educational Themes

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- Self-care
- Responsiveness/Reactions
- Anxiety Reduction Techniques
- Symptoms vs. Identity
- Baby-care and soothing
- Communication Skills
- Developing support system
- Parenting Techniques



Examples of Evidence-Based Parent-Child Therapy

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- **Watch Wait and Wonder** (Cohen N. et al. INFANT MENTAL HEALTH JOURNAL 1999, Vol. 20(4), 429–451 (1999))
- **Child Parent Psychotherapy** (http://main.zerotothree.org/site/DocServer/Reyes_copy_for_the_Insider.pdf)
- **Circle of Security** (<http://circleofsecurity.net>)
- **Infant Massage** (Field, T. et al (1996). Massage therapy for infants of depressed mothers. *Infant Behavior and Development*, 19, 107-112)

Positive Attachment Goals

80

- Experience infant as vital, contributing individual in the relationship
- Able to experience infant's behavior without insecure projection and negative interpretation
- Able to accept infant's behavior and feelings and tolerate her own feelings, with flexibility and consistency (“containing”)
- Develop insight, patience, and acceptance

Facilitating Empathic Relationship

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- Validating, empathizing, encouraging
- Framing, holding, and contextualizing
- Creating a new interpretation of baby's responses
- Creating a safe place for parents to process and question
- Engaging support and follow through

Common Therapeutic Issues/ Research-Based Tools



Common Perinatal Therapeutic Issues

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- Self-esteem/self-worth
- Parenting
- Grief/loss/trauma
- Couples'/relationship/family issues
- Sex Therapy
- Self-care
- Sleep
- Exercise
- Body image
- Stigma/guilt/shame
- Overcoming powerful emotions (fear, worry, anxiety, despair, worthlessness...)
- Breastfeeding/infant care
- Spiritual concerns



Sleep

(Beck & Driscoll, 2006)



- Sleep often the first dysregulated area
 - Melatonin (responsible for maintaining sleep cycle) is important in this resetting process but is diminished with sleep deprivation
- Create a plan to improve sleep
 - Bring in help for sleep
- Ideally, help her sleep 6-8 hours (deep sleep) for 3 days in a row
- 5 hours minimum for mental health functioning
- Encourage breastfeeding moms to pump
- Natural sleep aids—melatonin, l-theanine, lavender/sandalwood/vetiver/roman chamomile essential oil
- May use small dose of prescription sleep aid as needed

Complementary Therapeutic Methods



- EMDR (Eye Movement Desensitization Reprocessing)—highly validated/effective for trauma
- Biofeedback
- Clinical hypnosis—shown to significantly improve symptoms of depression; “a viable nonpharmacologic intervention for depression” (*Shih et al, 2009*)
 - Case study—useful for PPD; attends to specific problems presented by client, develops client coping skills, and prevents recurrence (*Yexley, 2007*)
- Exercise—help create a realistic plan (*8 Keys to Mental Health Through Exercise*)

Mental Health Benefits of Exercise



- Increases levels of serotonin, dopamine, and norepinephrine in the brain. Also increases endorphins. *(Biddle & Fox, 1989; Chouloff 1994, 1997)*
- Enhances mood and energy *(Thayer, 2011; Griffin & Trinder, 1978)*
- Improves cognitive functioning *(Young, 1979)*
- Reduces and helps us manage stress *(Mayo Clinic 2012).*
- Improves quality of sexual intimacy

Mental Health Benefits of Exercise



Can prevent and even “treat” various mental disorders

- Depression & Perinatal Depression (*Blumenthal et al., 2007*)
- Anxiety & worry (*Otto & Smitts, 2007*)
- Bipolar (*Mohammed et al., 2009*)
- Schizophrenia (*Gorczynski & Faulkner, 2010*)
- Can also significantly help emotional issues such as
 - Grief
 - Stress (*Gerber et al., 2013*)

Complementary Therapeutic Methods

- Aromatherapy & Essential Oils
 - positive impact as adjunctive treatment for postpartum anxiety and depression
 - Significant improvements on EPDS & GAD-7 scores w/no adverse effects
 - Aromatherapy or hand technique—lavender, rose (Conrad & Adams, 2012)
- Safety—pregnancy, postpartum, babies, breastfeeding
- “Quality matters, folks!” Dr. Nicole Parish, Johns Hopkins



www.MotherhoodEssentials.org

Aromatherapy/Essential Oils



- **Uses for Pregnancy:**

- All natural support through all three trimesters
- For physical discomfort: abdominal, venous, rectal, perineal, skin irritations; digestive support; immune support;
- Emotional & sleep support

- **Uses Postpartum:**

- Emotional support; mental clarity; fatigue/energy boost
- Sleep support for whole family
- Relaxation/stress support
- Immune system boost
- Breastfeeding—nipple soothing
- Safe for baby (calm, soothe, sleep, etc)

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<https://www.facebook.com/groups/motherhoodessentials/>

FREE Therapeutic Resources

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& FULFILLING YOUR
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GROW
personal growth group!
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Thank you!

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