

INPLASY PROTOCOL

To cite: Mavroeides et al.
Measuring illness perception in
depression: A comparative
systematic review of available
measures protocol. Inplasy
protocol 202070105. doi:
10.37766/inplasy2020.7.0105

Received: 23 July 2020

Published: 23 July 2020

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Support: None.

**Review Stage at time of this
submission:** Piloting of the
study selection process.

Conflicts of interest:
None.

Measuring illness perception in depression: A comparative systematic review of available measures protocol

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Review question / Objective: Which are the available instruments for measuring depressed patients' illness perception? Which has the best psychometric properties?

Condition being studied: Depression.

Main outcome(s): The main outcome of the study will be the identified instruments that are available for measuring illness representations in depression. Moreover, the comparison of the illness perceptions' dimensions that each instrument assesses, the psychometric features and the investigation of the theoretical framework of each instrument will provide information concerning the robustness of each instrument.

INPLASY registration number: This protocol was registered with the International Platform of Registered Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis Protocols (INPLASY) on 23 July 2020 and was last updated on 23 July 2020 (registration number INPLASY202070105).

INTRODUCTION

Review question / Objective: Which are the available instruments for measuring depressed patients' illness perception? Which has the best psychometric properties?

Rationale: Patients' perceptions of their depressive illness is associated with various clinical outcomes in depression, such as depression and anxiety symptoms severity, patients' psychosocial functioning, and medication adherence. The DSM-5 acknowledges the role of illness perception

in Section 2, through a sequence of questions investigating specific perceptions dimensions. However, to date there has not been a systematic investigation of the instruments that are available for measuring illness perception in depression.

Condition being studied: Depression.

METHODS

Search strategy: Terms used for the search: Depression OR Major Depressive Disorder AND illness perception OR illness representations OR personal illness models
Databases being searched: Pubmed, PsycINFO, Science Direct, Web of Science, Scopus, Google Scholar.

Participant or population: Adult patients with a diagnosis of depression.

Intervention: Not applicable.

Comparator: Not applicable.

Study designs to be included: Cross-sectional, longitudinal, interventional, psychometric instrument development.

Eligibility criteria: 1. Published in an English language peer-review journal, 2. full text available, 3. focus on adults aged 18 or above with a diagnosis of depression, 4. using at least one instrument to assess illness representations.

Information sources: Electronic databases, contact with authors, search in the reference lists of identified eligible studies.

Main outcome(s): The main outcome of the study will be the identified instruments that are available for measuring illness representations in depression. Moreover, the comparison of the illness perceptions' dimensions that each instrument assesses, the psychometric features and the investigation of the theoretical framework of each instrument will provide information concerning the robustness of each instrument.

Data management: One Author will independently screen all titles and abstracts for eligibility. Articles will be included if they fulfill the inclusion criteria. If the abstract was not informative enough or not available the full text article will be read. Data on author, study design, sample size, characteristics of study population (e.g. veterans with MDD), measures used, and instruments psychometric features will be extracted.

Quality assessment / Risk of bias analysis: Not applicable.

Strategy of data synthesis: After the study selection and the quality assessment phase, a table will be created with the findings of each study. In the table there will be included information such as the sample's characteristics, the study's design, the dimensions of illness perception measured by each instrument, the psychometric features, and the theoretical framework of each instrument.

Subgroup analysis: Not applicable.

Sensibility analysis: Not applicable.

Language: English.

Country(ies) involved: Greece.

Keywords: Depression; illness perception; illness representations; personal illness models.

Contributions of each author:

Author 1 - Giorgos Mavroeides - The author conducted the database search, he will conduct the data synthesis, and he will draft the manuscript.

Author 2 - Katerina Koutra - The author will provide overview of analysis, will support manuscript writing, and will read and approve the final draft of the manuscript.