

Acute Stress Disorder: Bridging the Gap between Trauma and Recovery

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Abstract

Acute Stress Disorder (ASD) is a complex psychological condition that arises in response to traumatic events, blurring the boundaries between the initial shock and the journey towards recovery. This abstract explores the multifaceted nature of ASD, highlighting the critical need to bridge the gap between trauma and recovery. ASD emerges within the first few weeks following exposure to a traumatic event and shares similarities with its more enduring counterpart, Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). However, ASD presents unique challenges and opportunities for early intervention and support. This abstract delves into the diagnostic criteria for ASD, emphasizing the importance of recognizing its symptoms promptly to facilitate early intervention. The psychological mechanisms underpinning ASD, such as intrusive thoughts, dissociation, and hyperarousal, are dissected, shedding light on the intricate interplay between cognitive, emotional, and physiological processes. Furthermore, the role of individual differences in vulnerability and resilience is discussed, underscoring the importance of personalized approaches to treatment. The transition from ASD to recovery is examined, with a focus on evidence-based interventions and therapies. Cognitive-behavioral techniques, mindfulness practices, and pharmacological interventions are explored within the context of ASD treatment, offering a comprehensive overview of the available options. This abstract also underscores the significance of social support and community resources in facilitating the recovery process for individuals with ASD. The role of family, friends, and healthcare providers is highlighted, emphasizing the need for a holistic approach to care.

Keywords: Acute stress disorder (ASD); Trauma; Recovery; Psychological mechanisms; Diagnosis; Symptoms; Intrusive thoughts; Dissociation; Hyper arousal; Early intervention; Resilience; Individual differences; Cognitive-behavioral techniques; Mindfulness practices; Pharmacological interventions; Social support; Community resources; Traumatic events; Mental health; Well-being

Introduction

In the realm of mental health, the intricate dynamics between trauma and recovery have long been a subject of profound significance. Among the myriad conditions that arise in response to traumatic events, Acute Stress Disorder (ASD) occupies a distinctive and pivotal role. ASD, characterized by a constellation of distressing symptoms that emerge shortly after exposure to trauma, serves as a crucial bridge between the initial shock of a traumatic incident and the subsequent path to recovery. Understanding the complexities of ASD is essential not only for mental health professionals but also for society at large, as it can pave the way for early intervention, effective treatment, and the restoration of well-being. Trauma, whether resulting from natural disasters, accidents, interpersonal violence, or other harrowing experiences, has the power to disrupt the delicate equilibrium of the human psyche. In its aftermath, individuals often grapple with a barrage of emotions, intrusive memories, and heightened arousal, all of which are hallmark features of ASD. Yet, it is within this period of acute distress that the seeds of resilience and recovery can also be sown. This introduction serves as a prelude to an exploration of Acute Stress Disorder, illuminating its diagnostic criteria, underlying [1-7] psychological mechanisms, and the spectrum of interventions available for those who experience it. Furthermore, it underscores the role of individual differences in vulnerability and resilience, highlighting the need for tailored approaches to care. Additionally, it emphasizes the indispensable role of social support and community resources in bridging the gap between trauma and recovery.

As we embark on this journey into the heart of Acute Stress Disorder, we shall traverse the tumultuous landscape of trauma, guided by the hope that a deeper understanding of ASD will empower individuals, families, and healthcare providers alike to facilitate the

healing process and strengthen the foundations of resilience in the face of adversity.

Materials and Methods

Participants: The study included [insert number] participants who had recently experienced a traumatic event and met the diagnostic criteria for Acute Stress Disorder (ASD) as per the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-5).

Recruitment: Participants were recruited from [insert source], which included clinical settings, trauma centers, and support groups. Informed consent was obtained from each participant before their inclusion in the study.

Assessment: The diagnosis of ASD was determined through structured clinical interviews conducted by trained mental health professionals using the Clinician-Administered PTSD Scale for DSM-5 (CAPS-5). Demographic and trauma-related information was also collected during these interviews.

Measures

Acute stress disorder scale (ASDS): Participants' ASD symptom severity was assessed using the ASDS, a self-report questionnaire designed to measure the presence and intensity of ASD symptoms.

Psychological Measures: Various psychological measures, such as

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the Impact of Event Scale-Revised (IES-R) and the Perceived Social Support Scale (PSSS), were administered to assess psychological distress and social support, respectively.

Interventions

Participants were randomly assigned to one of three intervention groups: Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy (CBT), Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction (MBSR), or a control Table 1 group receiving standard care.

CBT sessions consisted of [insert details] and followed a manualized approach.

MBSR involved [insert details] over a period of [insert duration].

Data collection

Data on ASD symptom severity, psychological distress, and perceived social support were collected at baseline, post-intervention, and follow-up time points.

Adherence to the treatment protocol was monitored through session attendance records and self-report measures.

Data analysis

Descriptive statistics, including means, standard deviations, and frequencies, were calculated to summarize participant demographics and baseline characteristics.

Inferential statistics, such as analysis of variance (ANOVA) and chi-square tests, were used to examine group differences at baseline.

Repeated measures ANOVA or mixed-design ANOVA was employed to analyze changes in ASD symptoms, psychological distress, and perceived social support over time, with Bonferroni corrections for multiple comparisons.

Limitations

Possible limitations of the study include [insert potential limitations], which may impact the generalizability of the results.

Results and Discussion

Data availability

Data from this study may be made available upon request and in compliance with ethical and legal regulations.

This comprehensive methodology outlines the recruitment, assessment, interventions, data collection, and analysis procedures employed in the investigation of Acute Stress Disorder and its treatment outcomes. The study aims to contribute valuable insights into bridging the gap between trauma and recovery for individuals experiencing ASD.

Limitations and future scope

Limitations

Sample size: The study's sample size may have limitations in terms of statistical power. A larger and more diverse sample would enhance the generalizability of the findings.

Selection Bias: Participants were recruited from specific sources, potentially introducing selection bias. Those who sought help or were available for participation may differ from the broader population of individuals with ASD.

Measurement bias: The reliance on self-report measures and clinician-administered assessments may introduce measurement bias. The accuracy of participants' self-reporting and the consistency of clinician assessments may vary.

Treatment adherence: Adherence to treatment protocols was monitored, but the study may have lacked a comprehensive assessment of treatment fidelity. Variations in the delivery of interventions could impact outcomes.

Duration of follow-up: The follow-up period for assessing treatment outcomes may not capture long-term changes or relapse. Longer-term follow-up assessments would provide a more comprehensive understanding of recovery trajectories.

Generalizability: Findings from this study may not be applicable to individuals from different cultural backgrounds or those with comorbid mental health conditions. Future research should consider diverse populations.

Future Scope

Longitudinal studies: Conduct longitudinal studies to track the trajectories of ASD and recovery over extended periods, allowing for a deeper understanding of the long-term effects of interventions.

Cultural sensitivity: Investigate how cultural factors influence the experience of ASD and the effectiveness of interventions. Develop culturally sensitive treatment approaches.

Transdiagnostic approaches: Explore transdiagnostic treatment approaches that address not only ASD but also comorbid conditions, promoting holistic mental health.

Neurobiological research: Enhance understanding of the neurobiological underpinnings of ASD, potentially identifying biomarkers for diagnosis and treatment response.

Telehealth interventions: Evaluate the feasibility and effectiveness of telehealth interventions for individuals with ASD, particularly in regions with limited access to mental health services.

Prevention strategies: Develop and test prevention strategies aimed at reducing the risk of ASD following trauma, including resilience-building programs for at-risk populations.

Community support: Investigate the role of community support

Table 1: Format provides a clear and concise overview of the limitations.

Limitation	Description
Sample Size	Relatively small sample size may limit statistical power.
Selection Bias	Participants were recruited from specific sources, potentially introducing selection bias.
Measurement Bias	Reliance on self-report measures and clinician-administered assessments may introduce measurement bias.
Treatment Adherence	Monitoring treatment adherence, but lack of comprehensive assessment of treatment fidelity.
Duration of Follow-up	Short follow-up period may not capture long-term changes or relapse.
Generalizability	Findings may not apply to diverse cultural backgrounds or comorbid conditions.

systems and peer-led interventions in the recovery process, focusing on their potential to complement clinical treatments.

Alternative therapies: Explore the integration of alternative therapies, such as art therapy or animal-assisted therapy, into ASD treatment plans, allowing for a more holistic approach.

AI and digital health: Utilize artificial intelligence and digital health platforms to enhance early detection, monitoring, and personalized interventions for individuals at risk of or experiencing ASD.

Global mental health: Expand research on ASD in low-resource settings and underrepresented populations to ensure that effective interventions are accessible to all.

These limitations and future scope considerations aim to advance our understanding of Acute Stress Disorder and contribute to more effective strategies for bridging the gap between trauma and recovery in diverse populations and contexts.

Ethical considerations

The study received approval from the [insert name] Institutional Review Board (IRB).

Informed consent was obtained from all participants, and their confidentiality and data security were ensured throughout the study.

Conclusion

This abstract underscores the critical importance of addressing Acute Stress Disorder as a bridge between trauma and recovery. By enhancing our understanding of ASD and its complexities, we can develop more effective strategies for early intervention and support, ultimately aiding individuals in their journey towards healing and resilience in the aftermath of traumatic experiences.

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