Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT) for Clients with Emotion Regulation Disorder (e.g. BPD)

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Agenda

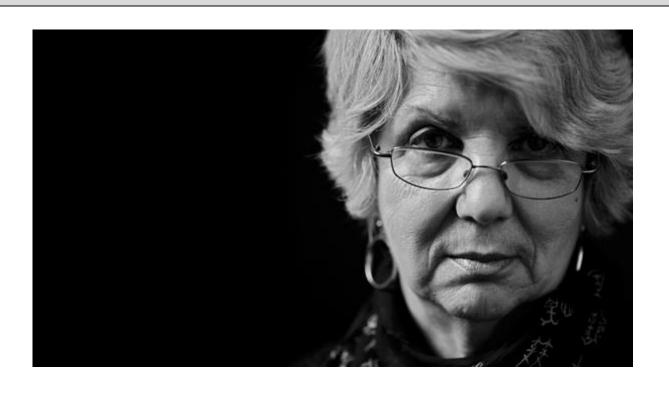
- Development of DBT
- How DBT works
- Emotion work in DBT
- Self-compassion in DBT
- Efficacy of DBT
- Summary



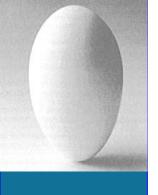
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Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT)



Marsha M. Linehan Born in 1943, Tulsa, Oklahoma



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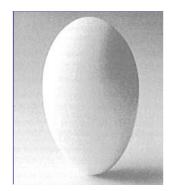
Development of DBT

- Emperically generated
- Procedure of the 3rd wave of Behavior Therapy
- Modular design
- Therapeutic focus in DBT: Treatment of an emotion regulation disorder.
 - => DBT is a therapy that focuses on emotions



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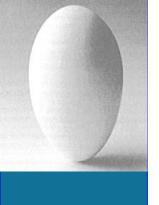
How DBT works



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Overarching Goal in DBT

To build functional strategies for emotion regulation with the goal of benevolent acceptance of oneself



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Procedure in DBT

Psychotherapy in DBT:

The journey to yourself through the eye of the needle of emotions



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Procedure in DBT

Blocking dysfunctional behavior patterns (e.g., SIB, inappropriate anger outbursts)

while simultaneously

promoting functional behavior patterns by teaching skills (e.g., stress tolerance skills, emotion regulation skills) based on an authentic and resilient relationship.





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Characteristics of DBT

D = Dialectics

Balance between acceptance / change

B = Behavioral

Behavioral therapy basis

Additionally:

- Integrative approach
- Clear structure / hierarchy
- Awareness of boundaries

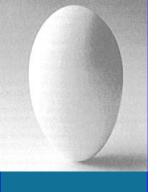


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Characteristics of DBT - Dialectics -

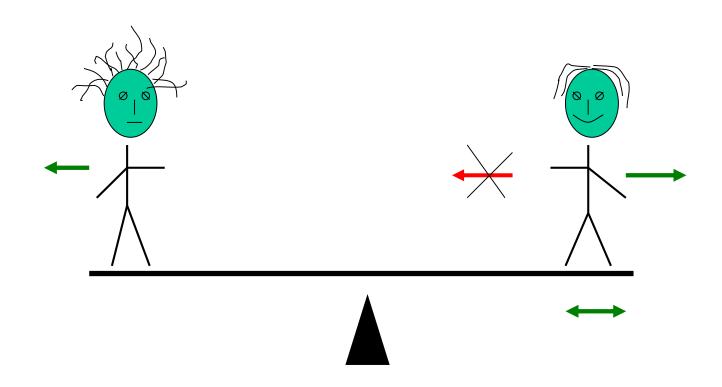
Marsha Linehan discusses

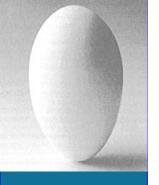
How She Came to Develop Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT)



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Characteristics of DBT - Dialectics in Relationships -





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Characteristics of DBT - Behavioral Therapy Basis -

"Working tool":

Behavior analysis

Classic conditioning:

What triggers the behavior?

Operant conditioning:

What maintains the behavior?

Contingency management

What modifies the behavior?



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GUIDELINE

A DBT therapist always reinforces functional behavior through their relationship...



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GUIDELINE ... and NEVER reinforces dysfunctional behavior through the relationship!





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Additionally:

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Characteristics of DBT- Integrative Approach -

- Behavioral Therapy
- Cognitive Therapy
- Conversational Psychotherapy
- Gestalt Therapy
- Self-Compassion Techniques
- Zen/Mindfulness





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Characteristics of DBT

D = Dialectics

Balance between acceptance / change

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Behavioral therapy basis

Additionally:

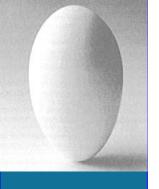
- Integrative approach
- Clear structure / hierarchy
- Awareness of boundaries



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Structuring Strategies

DBT focuses on emotions!



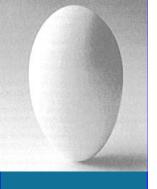
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Structuring Strategies - Treatment Stages -

Dynamic Hierarchy

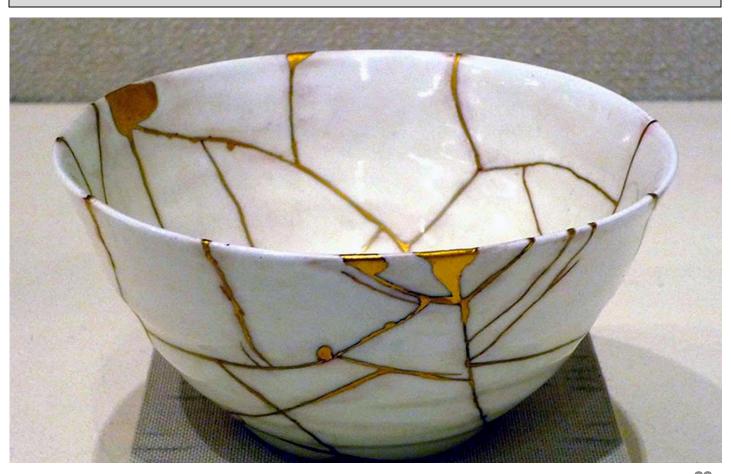
Danger to life
Termination of therapy
Severe crises
Jeopardize therapy progress





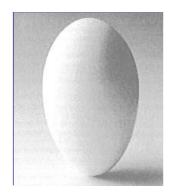
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Structuring Strategies - Aim of Stage III -



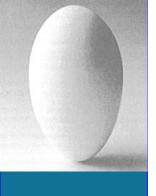


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Emotion Work in DBT





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Emotion Work in DBT

- dealing with clients' own emotions -

Emotions are rejected because they are:

- perceived as uncontrollable
- not experienced as appropriate
- painful





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Emotion Work in DBT

- when emotions are rejected (1) -

What happens when you don't want an emotion to be...

- true?
- accepted?



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Emotion Work in DBT

- when emotions are rejected (2) -

Emotions

- ...get stronger



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Emotion Work in DBT - when emotions are rejected (3) -

e.g. when fear turns into panic





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Emotion Work in DBT

- when emotions are rejected (4) -

Emotions

- ...get stronger
- come to light in other, inappropriate places

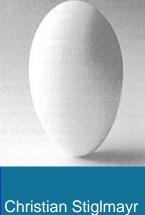


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- if emotions are rejected (5) -

e.g. the anger towards the partner breaks out somewhere else.





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Emotion Work in DBT

- when emotions are rejected (6) -

Emotions

- ...get stronger,
- come to light in other, inappropriate places
- must be regulated in a different way



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Emotion Work in DBT

- when emotions are rejected (7) -

Dysfunctional strategies to regulate emotions:

- Suicidal behavior
- Self-injurious behavior
- Alcohol, drugs
- High-risk behavior
- Binge eating, starving
- Etc.







Psychotherapie

Emotion Work in DBT

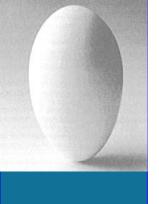
- when emotions are rejected (8) -

Conclusion:

Rejecting one's own emotions

= a lot of problems and ...

... = Rejecting oneself

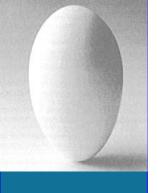


Emotion Work in DBT - when emotions are rejected (9) -

And:

A significant part of life energy is used to reject emotions and thus oneself

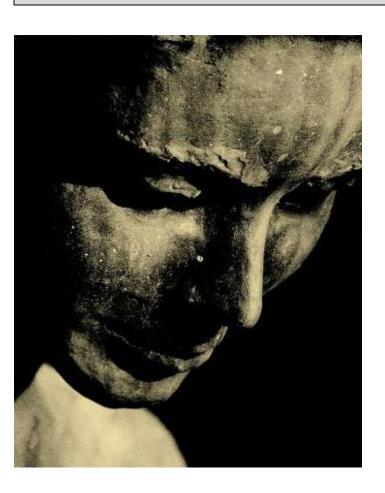
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Emotion Work in DBT - when emotions are rejected (10) -



...SUFFERING!



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Emotion Work in DBT

How are emotions dealt within DBT?



Emotion Work in DBT

In general:

With increasing therapy duration, the proportion of emotion activation and thus emotion exposure becomes more extensive





Emotion Work in DBT

- Blocking dysfunctional behavior (1) -

The first thing to do is to clear the way to the primary emotions (stage I)

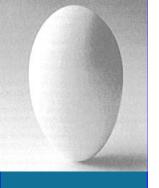
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Emotion Work in DBT

- Blocking dysfunctional behavior (2) -
- Using cold water
- Tightening and relaxing different muscles of the body
- Standing on a wobbly surface with one leg
- Eating chilli
- Drinking lemon juice
- Using an Ammonia inhalant
- Breathing, especially exhaling
- Distracting activities

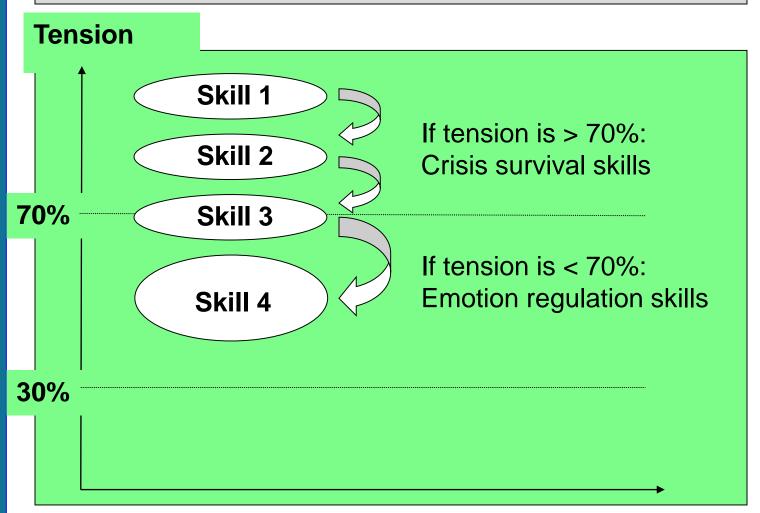


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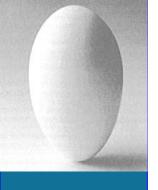
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Emotion Work in DBT

- Skills Chain -







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Emotion Work in DBT

- The three focuses in emotion work -

- 1) Perceive and mark
 - Whenever an emotion is perceptible or noticeable, it is addressed
- 2) Describe
 - Perceiving and describing the emotion
 - "If you name it you tame it"
- 3) Participate
 - Experiencing the primary emotion
 - "If you feel it you heal it"





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Emotion Work in DBT - Message from the therapist -

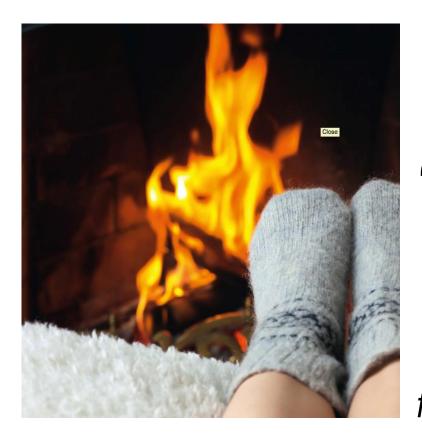
- "I trust you to endure such emotions"
- The (primary) emotion is appropriate
- I am there for you and accompany you even in your most emotionally difficult hours
- "You are welcome with your emotions!"

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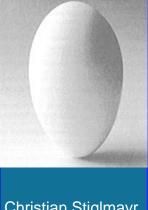
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- Target behavior of the client -



Be a polite host who opens the door wide when there is a knock: "Ah, it's you! Welcome! And crying and sobbing have you brought too? Come in and sit down by the fireplace and tell me all about it!"



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Emotion Work in DBT

- Allowing emotions (1) -

What happens when you let in a previously avoided (unpleasant) emotion?



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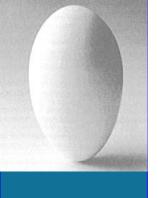
Emotion Work in DBT

- Allowing emotions (2) -



...pain!





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Emotion Work in DBT

- Allowing emotions (3) -

How can this pain be dealt with?



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Self-Compassion



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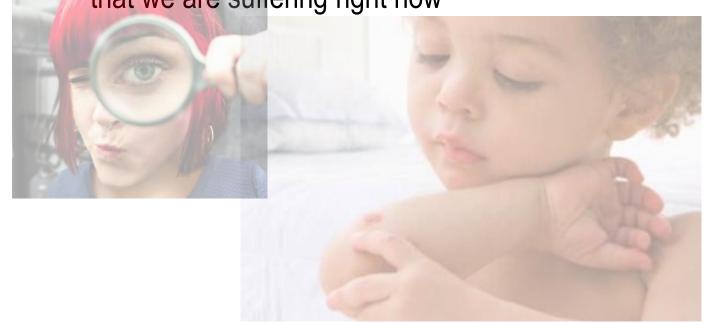
Self-Compassion - Definition (1) -

The 3 main pillars of self-compassion (Neff, 2003):

Mindfulness

i.e. in order to respond to our need, we must know

that we are suffering right now





Self-Compassion - Definition (2) -

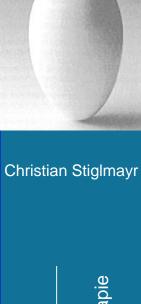
The 3 main pillars of self-compassion (Neff, 2003):

Self-friendliness

i.e. treat oneself with kindness, care and

understanding





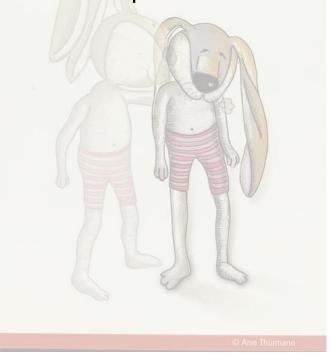
Self-Compassion - Definition (3) -

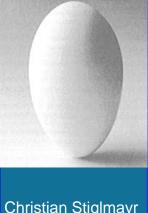
The 3 main pillars of self-compassion (Neff, 2003):

Common humanity

i.e. everyone suffers or makes the experience of not

being perfect





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Self-Compassion - Definition (4) -

"Self-compassion is a state of loving, connected presence"

"We practice (self) compassion not so much with the goal of feeling better, but because we feel bad"

(Neff, 2003)

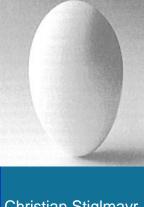


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Self-Compassion - Dangers -

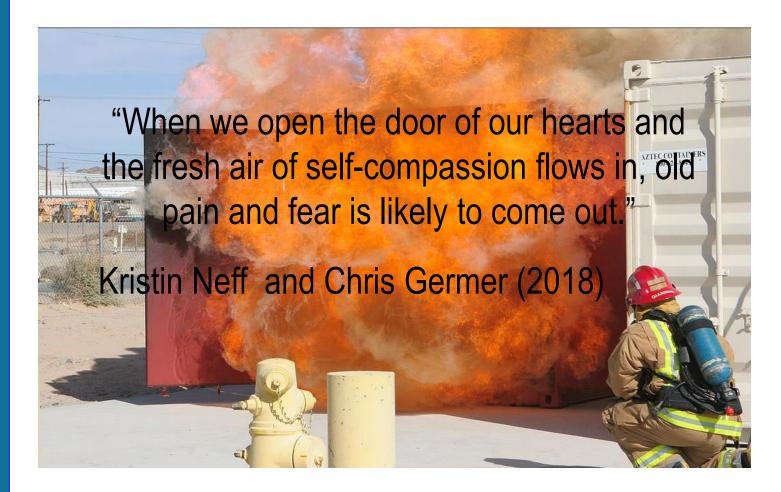
But take care!



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Self-Compassion - Backdraft -



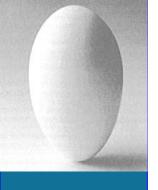


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Self-Compassion - Requirements -

- No more severe dysfunctional behavior
- Distress tolerance skills
- Emotion regulation skills
- Mindfulness skills
- Stable social relationships



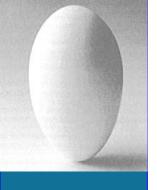


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Self-Compassion - Self-compassion break -

- Mindfulness: This is a moment of suffering
 - Localize emotional pain in the body
- 2) Common humanity: Suffering is part of life
 - I am not alone with my pain
 - Place hand on this area; thereby warmth and body contact
- 3) Self-friendliness: benevolent coaxing
 - E.g. "May I accept myself as I am"





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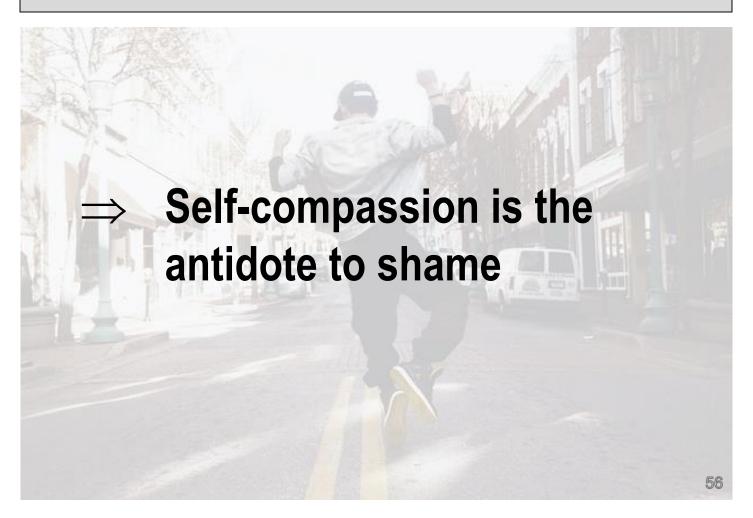
Self-Compassion - Dealing with shame (1) -

- Basic needs: to be loved and to belong
- If I don't get as much love as I need: "I am wrong the way I am" (otherwise I would be loved)
- I am different from others
 - ⇒ existential shame
- Permanent search for love and belonging in the outside world
- Acceptance that no one will be able to meet those needs the way parents normally should have done
- Building self-compassion in the face of the suffering it creates



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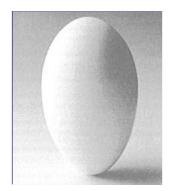
Self-Compassion - Dealing with shame (2) -



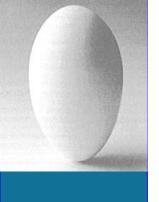


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Efficacy of DBT



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Efficacy Studies (1)

In a recent meta analysis including 24 randomized-controlled trials, there were moderate to strong effect sizes with respect to self-injurious behavior, suicidality, and mental health (Cochrane Review; Storebø et al., 2020).

⇒ By far the most efficacy studies are available for DBT, followed by MBT with 7 studies



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Efficacy Studies (2)

Based on current studies, only DBT and MBT are recommended as evidence-based methods for the treatment of BPD

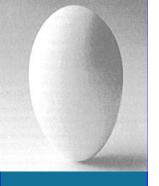




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DBT-Effectiveness Study, Berlin

- 1 year outpatient DBT
- BPD (DSM-IV-TR)
- Under normal supply conditions
- 2007 2010
- Included:
 - 47 clients (43 females, 4 males)
 - > 15 years



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DBT-Effectiveness Study, Berlin - Pre-Post-Results -

Table 2: Median, Range, Descriptive Means (M_d) and Standard Deviations (SD) for Pair-Wise Comparisons t0-t3

	tO)	t3			Time effect			
	Median	Range	Median	Range	n (pairs)		Wilcoxon <i>U</i>	р	Effect size ^d
Number of suicide attempts	.00	0-2	.00	0-1	42			1.000a	
NSSI	5.17	0-901	1.00	0-174	42		-3.03	.002	0.33
	M_d	SD	M_d	SD	n (pairs)	t	df	р	Effect size ^d
Inpatient treatment									
Number of inpatient stays	1.13	1.41	0.32	0.89	47	3.85	46	<.001	0.56
Duration (days)	51.3	74.2	6.8	19.9	47	4.15	46	<.001	0.61
Number of DSM-IV TR BPD criteria met	6.4	1.2	3.2	1.9	31	8.85	30	<.001	1.59

Note. Effect sizes (Cohen's *d*) are based on pair-wise descriptive statistics t0-t3 (*p*-values pair-wise Wilcoxon- and *t*-tests).

Number of suicide attempts, non-suicidal self-injury, number and days of inpatient treatment stays 12 months prior t0 is compared to 12 months prior t3 NSSI

^aMcNemar-Test because of dichotomous variables (suicide attempt yes/no)

Stiglmayr et al. (2015)

* 77% no longer fulfilled the BPS diagnosis



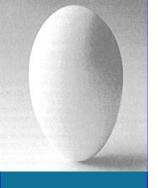
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DBT-Effectiveness Study, Berlin - Results costs-

	Costs for DBT	Costs during DBT	Costs savings
	M (SD) (in €)	M (SD) (in €)	(in €)
Medical costs Fotal	28.670 (33.443)	19.234 (19.534)	9.436
Direct costs	19.046 (25.210)	10.655 (9.154)	8.391
Indirect costs	9.624 (15.885)	8.579 (15.285)	1.045

Wagner et al., 2013

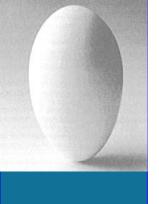




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Summary

- DBT is an empirically generated psychotherapeutic method of the third wave of behavior therapy
- DBT is an emotion focusing therapy
 - In order to be able to work with the client's emotions, the first thing to do is to put an end to previously dysfunctional behaviors for emotion regulation
- Mindfulness and self-compassion are necessary components for treating clients with BPD
- DBT is effective for treating clients with BPD



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Thank you for your attention!



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Self-Compassion - Neurobiology -

Recourse to and expansion of the mammalian care system to compensate for the threat defense system, which may be overly active.

- ⇒ 3 important factors that develop and sustain the mammalian care system:
 - warmth
 - soothing touch
 - gentle vocalisation