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Dose-Effect Relations in Simulated Psychotherapy as Measured by the Outcome Questionnaire-45.11

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February 2001

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Dose-Effect Relations in Simulated Psychotherapy as Measured by the

Outcome Questionnaire-45.11

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Abstract

Outcome assessment has been used to evaluate the length of treatment needed and has been disputed for some time. Changes within both mental health and health insurance companies have contributed to a trend toward time-limited therapy and the optimal number of sessions has become a central issue. This study sought to extend research in the area of treatment outcome. Specifically, it examined the efficacy of psychotherapy after five and ten sessions on the subjective well-being of university students.

Three hypotheses were tested in this study: (1) Subjective Well-Being scores (as measured by the Outcome Questionnaire-45.11) for the treatment group will be significantly higher than those of the control group on the mid and post-tests. (2) Subjective Well-Being scores will be higher for the treatment group subjects tested after five, and ten sessions of individual psychotherapy than the scores of the same subjects on the pretest. (3) Subjective Well-Being scores will be higher for the treatment group subjects tested after ten sessions than the scores of the same subjects after five sessions. The results did not support the three hypotheses as clinically significant change was not demonstrated.

When time was compared to group and gender, there were interaction effects. There was a quadratic effect on the Interpersonal Relationships scale and a quadratic effect was found when time, group and sex were compared on the Social Role Performance scale. Chi-square analyses were performed and the Interpersonal Relationships scale, F(1,19)=3.446; p=.079, approached significance. Although there were no significant group effects found when the two treatment groups were compared, there were three quadratic effects and interaction effects.

Future dose-effect studies may benefit from taking their treatment group from a clinical sample. Using a more diverse sample would also be a better representative of the greater population. In addition, it is proposed that dose-effect studies examine the effects of more or less therapy for a particular problem and avoid seeking to show a particular treatment duration as optimal.

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Table of Contents

Approvalii
Abstractiii
Acknowledgementsv
List of Figures
List of Tablesix
Chapter Introduction1
Treatment and Cost Management
Improvement over Various Durations
Brief Therapy10
Hypotheses
Chapter 2 Method
Participants13
Measures
Procedure
Statistical Analysis
Chapter 3 Results
Treatment and Control Groups Compared
Sample Means Compared
Chapter 4 Discussion
Treatment Groups Compared

Comparison of Normative and Sample Means	30
Limitations	30
Suggestions for Future Research	31
Conclusion	32
References	.33
Appendix A Informed Consent	.37
Appendix B Data Code	.39
Appendix C Raw Data	.41
Appendix D Vita	.45

,

Dose-Effect Relations viii

List of Figures

Figure 1	
Figure 2	
Figure 3	
Figure 4	

.

List of Tables

Table 1	
Table 2	
Table 3	

Chapter 1

Introduction

Outcome studies attempt to analyze the effects of psychotherapy and its potential for alleviating different types of mental problems (Lindfors, et al., 1995). Outcome assessment has been practiced since the 1930's (Lambert, Okiishi, Finch, & Johnson, 1998) and has changed with the practice of psychology. Conte (1997) wrote

Psychotherapy outcome research has evolved substantially, both conceptually and methodologically, since Eysenck's 1952 controversial evaluation of its effectiveness. Since the 1950's and early '60s, we have moved from the relatively unsophisticated question of whether psychotherapy of a nonspecific nature and applied to heterogeneous patient samples can effectively produce personality change to more complex questions. (p. 445)

Some of these more complex questions have led to studies finding that psychotherapy can lead to a decrease in utilization of medical care following psychotherapy (Gabbard, Lazar, Hornberger, & Spiegel, 1997; Mumford, Schlesinger, Glass, Patrick, & Cuerdon, 1984). Outcome studies meet many needs. Mirin and Namerow (1991) affirmed that "Treatment outcome studies, although difficult to design and carry out, are essential in demonstrating the efficacy of psychiatric treatment, rationalizing clinical decision making, and encouraging public support for the availability of appropriate, cost-effective care for the mentally ill" (p. 1007).

Outcome assessment has been used to evaluate the length of treatment needed. This use of outcome assessment has been disputed for some time. Strassberg, Anchor, Cunningham and

Elkins (1977) wrote "Mental health practitioners are increasingly under fire by consumer advocates and others to demonstrate the value of their services. A central issue in this debate concerns the optimal length (many vs. few sessions) of counseling" (p. 477). The issue of treatment duration became more than a debate when the rising healthcare costs of the early 1980's led to the era of accountability and managed mental health care systems (Wells, Burlingame, Lambert, Hoag, & Hope, 1996).

At the same time, changes within both mental health and health insurance companies have contributed to a trend toward time-limited therapy which seems to have begun in the early 80's (Gyorky, Royalty, & Johnson, 1994). In 1992 the Joint Commission on the Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO) moved to the Continuous Quality Improvement model which required that ongoing monitoring of patient care and improvement be added to the existing outcome assessment procedures (Burlingame, Lambert, Reisinger, Neff, & Mosier, 1995). This model has helped some practitioners to increase their effectiveness.

More recently, the mental health field's understanding has gained depth concerning the impact of psychotherapy on individuals. Gabbard et al., (1997) wrote

In the last decade or so, the emphasis in the mental health field has shifted away from cost offset to a more complex understanding of the economic impact of psychosocial interventions. One factor in this shift has been the recognition that the concept of cost offset tends to ignore the effects of psychiatric disorder on the quality and quantity of life. Inherent in the concept of cost offset is the notion that treating mental illnesses is only beneficial because it reduces overall costs of medical care. (p. 147-148)

Since that time, treatment outcome has come to mean different things for different groups. Lowry and Ross (1997) wrote "discrepancies may also be attributable to differences in outcome

criteria used by therapists (i.e., clinically significant change), third-party payers (i.e., medically necessary), and clients (i.e., symptom relief)" (p. 276). Despite this, everyone seems to agree that the need for accountability, and the practical constraints of applied science drive current outcome assessment efforts (Lambert et al., 1998).

Treatment and Cost Management

Practitioners have been frustrated by this trend and the increasing emphasis on cost management. Psychologists have complained of a decline in emphasis on quality health care and a loss of decision making capacity. These changes have now affected psychotherapists working in most settings. Schaeffer (1998) wrote "Finding effective and economical interventions in brief therapy has become a challenge for therapists of all orientations needing to make noticeable progress within a short period and to achieve positive, measurable outcomes" (p.14).

Some psychologists have proposed that the over-emphasis on cost containment be stopped and clinical decision making be returned to the psychologist. Mirin and Namerow (1991) wrote "The mental health industry must now assume responsibility for developing its own costcontainment strategies, lest others in the executive and legislative branches of government, as well as in the private sector, develop them independently" (p. 1007). In fact, these limitations are being imposed already. A limit of 10-20 outpatient mental health visits per year is standard and enforced by many managed care organizations and state/federal agencies of mental health care (Lowry & Ross, 1997).

Wells et al. (1996) reminds readers that for most practitioners, tracking psychotherapy outcomes is becoming a requirement, not an option. This requirement not only stresses the efficacy of treatment but the importance of documentation of treatment decisions based on treatment outcome studies. Burlingame et al. (1995) wrote "it is essential for health care

providers to document clinical results (endpoint assessment) and employ procedures for identifying and correcting problematic components of treatment through continuous ongoing monitoring of patient care (i.e., continuous quality improvement [CQI])" (pp. 226-227). These procedures have already been demanded for some time. Lambert and Brown (1996) wrote

The wholesale purchasers of health care services (employers, insurance companies, government) are increasingly demanding that measurement of clinical outcomes be incorporated into all aspects of health care delivery, and that treatment decisions are made based on sound empirical evidence for efficacy and value rather than financial considerations alone. (p. 176)

Regardless of new requirements to track patient progress in psychotherapy, there is a growing realization among practitioners of the need to set themselves apart as professionals. In this regard, Lambert, Ogles, and Masters (1992) wrote "Whereas the charlatan relies on selected case testimonials to justify using marginal treatments, the professional counselor understands his or her ethical obligation to provide objective evaluation of the quality of service" (p. 527). Treatment decisions are likely to be most appropriate when they originate with the service provider. Lowry and Ross (1997) stated "psychologists are guided by professional ethics to provide a necessary and sufficient amount of psychotherapeutic intervention to adequately treat a client's problem(s)" (p. 272). The goal of improvement of services can only aid in the process of ensuring future practitioners' management of their care. Increased quality of care, based on effective interventions, will allow therapists to regulate treatment conditions better and avoid third-party payment struggles. Johnson and Shaha (1996) wrote

Developing quality improvement models allows professional psychology to undo the disastrous mistakes of the past of opposing managed care (psychology's opposition to

managed care only marginalized the profession and certainly did not contribute to any resolution of the problems with managed care). Continuous Quality Improvement will promote effective treatment options based on results of treatment. (p. 227) Low-cost systematic measurement of treatment effects by the practitioner will establish a basis for treatment decisions made by him or her.

In addition to the above, managed care has put brief intervention models at the forefront of treatment modalities. This emphasis on cost-effective therapy is not all bad, however, and can be used to provide prescriptive treatments that bring lasting change. Even psychologists agree that there are some problems that can be effectively treated in relatively few psychotherapy sessions. Lowry and Ross (1997) wrote

The findings suggest that situational (e.g., work difficulties, adjustment disorder) or symptom-based (e.g., sleep problems, simple phobia) problems are expected to require significantly less psychotherapeutic intervention than relational problems or personality problems. Moreover, disorders typically viewed as biologically based (e.g., schizophrenia) were considered as requiring the largest number of psychotherapy sessions or were considered untreatable by psychotherapy alone. (p. 276)

Some clients feel that less counseling is preferable and sufficient (Warner, 1996). In such cases, service providers can limit the number of sessions needed to reduce symptoms and ensure gains. Salzer, Bickman, and Lambert (1999) affirmed that "the relationship between number of outpatient psychotherapy sessions and clinical outcome has become a focus of attention" (p.235). This kind of approach is crucial if future therapists want to market their skills effectively. Going beyond "good-enough therapy," this type of patient-service considers the cost of treatment and is more responsible for it.

Client attrition, dosage limits, and average length of treatment have all been considered when making treatment decisions. Phillips (1988) wrote "Today, more and more psychotherapists think in terms of planned short-term treatment--whether using a 6-session (the most common), 16session, or 26-session mode" (p. 669). Treatment duration decisions have also been influenced by client diagnosis, therapist theoretical orientation, therapist age, experience, and gender (Lowry & Ross, 1997). Furthermore, since many patients terminate so early in treatment, service providers need to weigh carefully the amount of psychotherapy they recommend.

The concern of many practitioners is whether or not brief therapy will be intentionalized (Steenbarger, 1992). The number of sessions prescribed must always be in the best interests of the patients and must consider the patients' willingness and commitment to treatment. This can become quite difficult with certain disorders. Franko and Erb (1998) wrote

The challenge of treating patients with eating disorders, together with the increasing intrusion of third-party payers into the healthcare system presents a dual dilemma for mental health clinicians. Although there are potent treatments for patients with anorexia nervosa and bulimia nervosa, most therapies require substantially more than a brief number of sessions in order to be effective. (p. 43)

Patients' mental health needs, symptom severity, risk, as well as financial means to pay for treatment are a few of the factors that need careful consideration when treatment recommendations are made. Often, clients are highly aware of their problems and are ready to form an alliance with practitioners (Steenbarger, 1994). These clients can collaborate with their therapists to make some decisions about the duration of treatment.

Service providers also need to inform their clients about treatment alternatives and expected positive and negative outcomes, as well as recommend what is the best course of

treatment for them. A study done by Consumer Reports showed that clients who stayed in therapy more than six months reported the most progress and those who began therapy with more serious problems reported the best outcomes after staying in therapy for two years (Gurin, 1995). Seligman (1995) wrote about the results of the Consumer Reports study, "Long-term therapy produced more improvement than short-term therapy. This result was very robust, and held up over all statistical models" (p. 968). As symptom severity increases, clinicians and third party payers must be open to more treatment. As has been stated above, ongoing assessment of treatment outcomes can help practitioners increase their effectiveness and maintain control over treatment decisions. Lambert and Brown (1996) wrote

There is no doubt that standardized monitoring of patient progress will further demonstrate the value of psychotherapy and lead to greater understanding of just how and when it is most and least effective. We look forward to the time when clinicians routinely and systematically gather and share information about the effects of their work, blending the best of the art and science of psychotherapy. (p. 177)

Improvement over Various Durations

Other studies have looked at the percentages of patients improved for various amounts of psychotherapy. Howard, Kopta, Krause, and Orlinsky, (1986) wrote

By eight sessions, 48% to 58% of patients would be expected to have measurably improved. About 75% of patients should have shown measurable improvement by the end of six months of once-weekly psychotherapy (26 sessions) and about 85% by the end of a year of treatment. (p. 162)

One study of the benefits of differing doses of psychotherapy on college students found that 11% of the college students reported improvement on interpersonal relations after 2 to 5 sessions, this

increased, however, to 38% for those completing 11 to 20 sessions (Weitz et al., 1975). Furthermore, the length of therapy has been found to be a significant predictor of improvement. particularly for the less severe mental and emotional conditions (Knesper, Belcher, & Cross, 1987).

Another study of clients seen at a college counseling center found a strong linear relationship between the proportion of clients improved and treatment length up to about 20 sessions (Strassberg et al., 1977). Salzer et al. (1999) stated that dose-effect studies such as the ones above have had a tremendous influence on the mental health field and have encouraged other dose-effect studies. If clinicians or managed care organizations are rigid about lengths of time for treatment, some clients may never get the help they need. One study surveyed 1,000 members of American Psychological Association Division 29 (Psychotherapy) and found psychologists expected 30 to 40 sessions of individual psychotherapy to achieve clinically significant change (Lowry & Ross, 1997).

As can be seen from the above-mentioned studies, many clients need more than eight sessions to demonstrate measurable improvement. For example, Steenbarger (1994) has found in his review of brief therapy that

Clients who are highly aware of focal problem patterns and form a ready, involving alliance may benefit from symptom-centered, prescriptive interventions that achieve their goals within 8 to 10 sessions. Within this group and over this limited span, there appears to be a strong relationship between duration and outcome, and considerable evidence that enduring changes can be achieved. At the other end of the continuum, clients with broad, diffuse, and poorly understood patterns and who need considerable time to form a trusting alliance may benefit from an extended period of exploratory work that moves treatment to the limits of brevity and beyond. (p. 116)

This seems to support cost management when clients are appropriate for briefer therapy, and, at the same time, supports therapists trying to best meet the needs of their clients when larger amounts of psychotherapeutic interventions are needed. One study found that even general functioning increased with a longer duration of therapy. Seligman (1995) wrote

The advantages of long-term treatment by a mental health professional held not only for the specific problems that led to treatment, but for a variety of general functioning scores as well: ability to relate to others, coping with everyday stress, enjoying life more, personal growth and understanding, self-esteem and confidence. (p. 969)

There is a current need for ongoing research in psychotherapy dose-effects. The need for increased quality of services dictates that practitioners learn from the services they provide and seek to better customize interventions. Information can be shared with other providers to ensure maximum effectiveness of treatment and the avoidance of premature discontinuation or excess where not needed. Herron, Eisenstadt, Javier, and Primavera (1994) wrote "If session effectiveness research becomes more extensive, sophisticated, and comparable, it could be a valuable tool for more informed decisions by policy makers, funders, consumers, and providers" (p. 284).

The trend toward managed care involvement in decisions must alert practitioners to continue to seek effective interventions and psychotherapy amounts. Franko and Erb (1998) stated

In reality, most [insurance] plans offer four to eight sessions and the authorization of additional visits requires a substantial crisis or life-threatening behaviors. Therapists are required to manage patients in increasingly less time and are pressured by third-party payers to do so or risk being denied further referrals. (p. 44)

Measuring treatment efficacy across visits will increase as third-party payers seek to maximize their service-to-cost ratio (Umphress, Lambert, Smart, Barlow, & Clouse, 1997). It seems certain at this point that the very diversity of challenges that face therapists will ensure no one appropriate dose for all. Steenbarger (1994) wrote "The present review raises the possibility that there is no one function linking duration and outcome across all clients, concerns, and helping approaches" (117).

Brief Therapy

It is difficult to study dose-effects of psychotherapy without being impacted by brief therapy. This treatment model seems to be the goal of many of the funders of mental health services. Limits on insurance coverage for psychotherapy have always existed (Herron et al., 1994) and so this should not alarm us. In fact, financing problems of health insurance companies, a growing demand for psychotherapy, and the restricted number of psychotherapists have all contributed to the development of short-term psychotherapies and their standardization (Kordy, Von Rad, & Senf, 1988). Brief treatment models have also gained support from clinicians who need to stay on provider panels and demonstrate cost effectiveness to managed care organizations.

At times, even patients seem to advocate for brief therapy. "Spontaneous remission" seems to illustrate this. Howard et al., (1986) wrote "Our meta-analysis suggests that about 15% of patients will feel and/or show measurable improvement before attending the first session of psychotherapy" (p. 163). Many times situational or symptom-based problems can be treated effectively in a relatively short duration. Because brief therapy has been, at times, unfairly compared with other treatment modalities of longer duration, it has been viewed as lesser by some practitioners. Steenbarger (1992) wrote

Given that brief therapy is viewed as less effective than time-unlimited treatments for most clients, it would not be surprising if therapists tended to underestimate the effects of such work relative to the ratings of clients and neutral observers. This, in fact, appears to be the case. (p. 54)

This is unfortunate as brief therapy can be an effective intervention for various problems. Herron et al. (1994) wrote "Given a particular goal, such as symptom removal, brief psychotherapy may do as well or better than unlimited psychotherapy. That does not mean that short-term and long-term therapies are interchangeable or that they have identical results" (p. 283).

In summary, outcome studies have been a part of mental health treatment for a long time and have been used for a variety of reasons. Recently, changes within both mental health and health insurance companies have contributed to the use of outcome studies to investigate the issues of treatment duration and the quality of patient care. The practitioners who deliver these services seem to be both frustrated and stimulated by these challenges and would like to demonstrate a high degree of professionalism in these matters. Therapists are also concerned that brief therapy will be intentionalized for reasons of cost containment and the best interests of the patient will be secondary. As for the literature in this area, many studies have supported the efficacy of psychotherapy and the benefits of it in larger amounts for some patients while other studies have found brief treatment to be sufficient for problems such as symptom removal. It seems that shortterm and long-term therapies serve unique functions for distinct populations.

Given the inconsistencies in the research findings regarding the effectiveness of timelimited therapy, the author decided to conduct an outcome study of varying amounts of psychotherapy. It is necessary to understand dose-effects so that treatment decisions can best be made, ethical standards can be met, and quality of service can increase. Specifically, the aim of this study was to investigate the effects of varying doses of psychotherapy given over a 10 week period to undergraduate students who served as analog psychotherapy patients. These varying doses of psychotherapy were the independent variables in this study. The dependent variables were the symptoms of the participants in the study as they reported them on the OQ-45.11.

Four research questions were addressed by this exploratory study. First, what, if any, is the rate of change in reported symptoms by a group of "normal" undergraduates exposed to 10 sessions of psychotherapy? Second, if the psychotherapy does reduce the subjects' symptoms, are 10 sessions more effective than 5 at doing so? Third, is there a linear relationship that can be seen for the effect of the psychotherapy on the subjects' symptoms? Fourth, did gender affect the outcome within the treatment group, and, if so, in what way?

<u>Hypotheses</u>

Three hypotheses were tested in this study: (1) Subjective Well-Being scores (as measured by the Outcome Questionnaire-45.11) for the treatment group will be significantly lower than those of the control group on the mid and post-tests. (2) Subjective Well-Being scores will be lower for the treatment group subjects tested after five, and ten sessions of individual psychotherapy than the scores of the same subjects on the pretest. (3) Subjective Well-Being scores will be lower for the treatment group subjects tested after ten sessions than the scores of the same subjects after five sessions.

Chapter 2

Method

Participants

Participants included college student volunteers serving as analog individual psychotherapy clients for first-year students in a doctoral clinical psychology program. The sample of 60 students was taken from a Northwest university. Ages ranged from 18 years to 20 years. The gender composition was approximately 56% female and 44% male with most of the participants being Caucasian. The participants tested were currently enrolled in an Introduction to Psychology class and received research credit for their participation in the individual psychotherapy.

The experimental group was formed by taking the weekly schedules provided by the participants interested in the psychotherapy, giving them to the graduate student trainees, and having the trainees contact participants whose schedules would allow the trainees to meet with them on a weekly basis. The control group was formed by asking the students of 4 Introduction to Psychology classes to take the Outcome Questionnaire-45.11 and other measures. Although the Religious Orientation Scale and an Experimental Measure of Religious Practices were also administered, this study did not utilize those data. Research credit was provided for those students who completed the measures all three times. They were administered over a twelve-week period.

<u>Measures</u>

Treatment effects were assessed by means of the OQ-45.11. The OQ-45.11 is a 45-item

measure that includes items that assess subjective discomfort, interpersonal relationships, and social role performance (Burlingame, Hansen, Lambert, Lunnen, & Umphress, 1994). These areas represent how persons feel, how they are getting along with significant others, and how they are doing in important life tasks such as work and school (Burlingame et al., 1994). Each item is responded to on a five point Likert continuum from Never to Almost Always. The OQ-45.11 measures patient progress in therapy and was designed to be repeatedly administered during the course of treatment and at termination. Gross treatment assignment decisions can be made from the OQ-45.11 as it was designed to be used as a baseline screening instrument. Normal scores for Undergraduates on the OQ-45.11 are: Subjective Distress - 23.08, Interpersonal Relations - 8.95, Social Role - 10.37, and Total - 42.4.

The OQ-45.11 was chosen for this study over other measures for its brevity (taking onehalf the time of similar measures), its breadth of use, as well as its sensitivity to change over short periods of time while maintaining high levels of reliability and validity (Wells et al., 1996). The co-efficient for internal consistency of the OQ-45.11 Total score is .93, and the test-retest reliability is .84. The co-efficients for validity are .7824 with the General Symptom Index of the Symptom Check List-90-Revised, .7959 with the Beck Depression Inventory, .8625 with the Taylor Manifest Anxiety, and .6449 with the Social Adjustment Scale.

The OQ-45.11 is a broad measure as well, designed to assess common symptoms across a wide range of mental disorders and syndromes including stress related illness and V. codes (Burlingame et al., 1994). Although the OQ-45.11 is a face-valid test, and could be distorted consciously, the participants would have received no benefit from doing so.

Procedure

The participants for the treatment group were selected by the graduate students

conducting the psychotherapy. The graduate students were told to select one female and one male participant to ensure counseling experience with each gender. The graduate students chose participants whose schedules were similar to theirs so that finding times to meet together would be easily facilitated. Of the participants left in the sample, 62 were assigned to the control group as they had completed the OQ-45.11 all three times it was administered. Twenty-three of the participants served in the treatment group with similar numbers of males and females in each treatment and control group.

The participants were given the OQ-45.11 three times: 1) before beginning psychotherapy, 2) after five sessions, and 3) following ten sessions of psychotherapy. The measure was given to the treatment and the control group participants by their Introduction to Psychology instructors all three times. The participants were selected out of 4 classes taught by 4 different instructors. Informed consent was collected by the instructors during the first administration of the measure. All participants were selected, and tested within a twelve-week time frame to minimize "history" effects.

Participation in the study was voluntary. Participants were given information regarding involvement in the testing and how the experience may have affected their treatment. Because assessment was done in the classroom and not overtly linked with the treatment, the experience of the testing is expected to have little, if any, effect on treatment. Participants were instructed that no negative repercussions would result from declining to participate except that the treatment group would not receive research credit if they did not complete the psychotherapy. Attempts were made to encourage all of the participants to remain in the study.

The participants were assured anonymity and confidentiality of all responses. Each participant was given a number. All data was identified by the number only. The author kept the

master list of names and numbers as well as all consent forms. When all the data was collected, the list of names and numbers was destroyed. Participants were told that all responses were for the purposes of "training a graduate student in clinical psychology." Participants were given the option to discontinue at any point.

Directions for completing the OQ-45.11 are printed on the answer sheet. The test administrator(s) encouraged the participants to fill out the scale in an honest and conscientious manner and complete all items. The average time required for taking the OQ-45.11 is less than ten minutes.

The treatment process consisted of the trainees meeting with their client one time per week for fifty minutes. The trainees were first year graduate students and were using basic counseling skills rather than a particular therapeutic orientation. The focus was on attending, listening, understanding, basic empathy, probing, summarizing, challenging, and helping clients plan and work for what they wanted. The manual that was used to train the graduate students for this experience was <u>Exercises in Helping Skills</u>, (6th ed.) by Gerard Egan (1998).

The trainees were supervised by either the professor teaching the counseling skills class or one of two graduate assistants. The supervision hour consisted of groups of three trainees meeting with their supervisors and sharing audio or video recordings of themselves with a client. They were asked to share instances of themselves demonstrating specific skills as well as difficulty and success at helping the client. A critique of the skills and ideas for further work with the client was shared by the supervisor.

Statistical Analysis

The above-mentioned three level design utilized an analysis of variance with repeated measures to test for the significance of the independent variable, psychotherapy (Brase & Brase,

1995). The data was read into SPSS and descriptive data was used to make group and occasion comparisons. A 2 X 3 multivariate analysis of variance with repeated measures (treatment vs. control groups, pre, five week and ten week outcomes) was used to compare this data.

Chapter 3

Results

Of the 135 participants who completed the OQ-45.11, 57 (42%) failed to complete it all three times: 48 of these 57 participants were in the control group and were removed from the study. The remaining 9 were in the treatment group and 1 of the 9 was removed from the study as he/she had failed to take the OQ-45.11 during either the first or second administration. An additional treatment group participant was not included in the study as he/she was referred for additional treatment. Of the 23 participants in the treatment group, 10 (43%) were male and 13 (57%) were female. Of the 62 participants in the control group, 28 (45%) were male and 34 (55%) were female.

The OQ-45.11 is a screening measure that includes items assessing subjective discomfort, interpersonal relationships, and social role performance. It yields scores for subjective distress, interpersonal relations, social role, and has a total score. These four scores provided the data to be analyzed. Figures 1-4 represent each of these domains at the pre-test, mid-test and post-test for the treatment groups. Descriptive statistics for each of the main variables are included in Table 1.

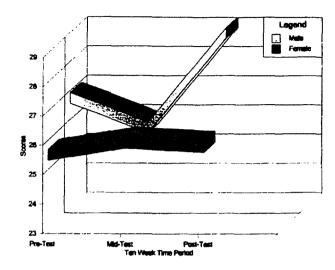


Figure 1. Subjective Distress

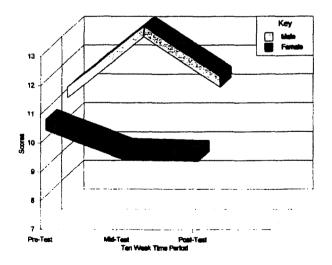


Figure 2. Interpersonal Relations

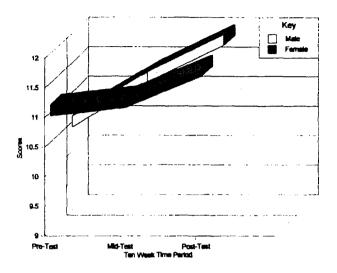


Figure 3. Social Role

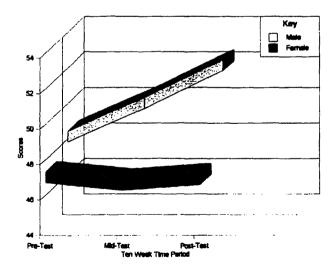


Figure 4. Total

Table 1

Symptom Distress 1	Treatment Control Total	Male Female Total Male Female Total Male Female	26.75 29.63 28.19 25.50 23.44 24.37 25.78	16.10 12.00 13.80 8.11 7.37 7.72 10.14	8 8 16 28 34 62
Distress 1		Total Male Female Total Male	28.19 25.50 23.44 24.37	13.80 8.11 7.37 7.72	16 28 34 62
		Male Female Total Male	25.50 23.44 24.37	8.11 7.37 7.72	28 34 62
		Female Total Male	23.44 24.37	7.37 7.72	34 62
	Total	Total Male	24.37	7.72	62
	Total	Male		•••=	
	Total		25.78	10.14	
		Famala		10.14	36
		LCURDIC	24.62	8.62	42
		Total	25.15	9.31	78
Symptom	Treatment	Male	25.75	12.68	8
Distress 2		Female	27.38	12.32	8
		Total	26.56	12.10	16
	Control	Male	25.93	9.58	28
		Female	22.21	7.69	34
		Total	23.89	8.73	62
	Total	Male	25.89	10.15	36
		Female	23.19	8.82	42
		Total	24.44	9.49	78
Symptom	Treatment	Male	29.00	17.08	8
Distress 3		Female	26.75	11.49	8
		Total	27.88	14.11	16
	Control	Male	25.79	9.52	28
		Female	20.82	8.03	34
		Total	23.06	9.01	62
	Total	Male	26.50	11.41	36
		Female	21.95	8.94	42
		Total	24.05	10.34	78

Means and Standard Deviations on OO45.11 for Treatment and Control Groups by Occasions

Table Continues

Table 1 Continued

Variable	Group	Gender	Mean	Standard Deviation	N
Interpersonal	Treatment	Male	10.88	7.75	8
Relations 1		Female	10.38	4.60	8
		Total	10.63	6.16	16
	Control	Male	10.46	5.24	28
		Female	7.24	3.83	34
		Total	8.69	4.77	62
	Total	Male	10.56	5.76	36
		Female	7.83	4.12	42
		Total	9.09	5.10	78
Interpersonal	Treatment	Male	13.00	9.32	8
Relations 2		Female	8.25	5.06	8
		Total	10.63	7.65	16
	Control	Male	9.46	4.83	28
		Female	6.79	3.07	34
		Total	8.00	4.15	62
	Total	Male	10.25	6.13	36
		Female	7.07	3.51	42
		Total	8.54	5.12	78
Interpersonal	Treatment	Male	11.25	9.22	8
Relations 3		Female	10.25	5. 28	8
		Total	10.75	7.28	16
	Control	Male	9.39	4.89	28
		Female	6.88	3.21	34
		Total	8.02	4.21	62
	Total	Male	9.81	6.01	36
		Female	7.52	3.85	42
		Total	8.58	5.06	78
Social	Treatment	Male	10.50	3.16	8
Role 1		Female	11.38	3.96	8
		Total	10.94	3.49	16
	Control	Male	11.04	2.63	28
		Female	8.59	3.41	34
		Total	9.69	3.30	62
	Total	Male	10.92	2.72	36
		Female	9.12	3.64	42
		Total	9.95	3.35	78
**********					 Tabl

Table Continues

Variable	Group	Gender	Mean	Standard Deviation	N
Social	Treatment	Male	11.25	2.82	8
Role 2		Female	9.75	3.58	8
		Total	10.50	3.20	16
	Control	Male	11.18	3.69	28
		Female	8.71	3.23	34
		Total	9.82	3.64	62
	Total	Male	11.19	3.48	36
		Female	8.90	3.28	42
		Total	9.96	3.54	78
Social	Treatment	Male	11.88	4.91	
Role 3		Female	12.25	3.24	٤
		Total	12.06	4.02	16
	Control	Male	11.71	3.11	28
		Female	7.91	3.04	34
		Total	9.63	3.60	62
	Total	Male	11.75	3.51	36
		Female	8.74	3.49	42
		Total	10.13	3.79	78
Total I	Treatment	Male	48.13	25.90	8
		Female	51.38	18.91	8
		Total	49.75	21.97	16
	Control	Male	47.00	13.52	28
		Female	39.26	12.87	34
		Total	42.76	13.62	62
	Total	Male	47.25	16.59	36
		Female	41.57	14.75	42
		Total	44.19	15.78	78
Total 2	Treatment	Male	50.00	23.65	1
		Female	45.38	18.83	
	~ · ·	Total	47.69	20.79	16
	Control	Male	46.57	15.26	28
		Female	37.71	12.45	34
		Total	41.71	14.38	62
	Total	Male	47.33	17.14	36
		Female	39.17	13.95	42
		Total	42.94	15.93	71

Table 1 Continued

Table Continues

Variable	Group	Gender	Mean	Standard Deviation	N
Total 3	Treatment	Male	52.13	28.26	8
		Female	49.25	17.47	8
		Total	50.69	22.74	16
	Control	Male	46.89	15.15	28
		Female	35.62	13.02	34
		Total	40.71	15.01	62
	Total	Male	48.06	18.48	36
		Female	38.21	14.76	42
		Total	42.76	17.20	78

Table I Continued

The first research hypothesis concerned how 10 sessions of psychotherapy would affect the rate of reported symptoms of a group of undergraduates. An analysis of variance with repeated measures revealed no significant treatment effects across administrations of the OQ-45.11. There were no significant group effects when the treatment group was compared to the control group at the pre-therapy, E(1,74)=2.996, p.=.088; and post-therapy testings, E(1,74)=1.605, p.=.209; and no significant occasion effects, E(1,74)=1.751, p.=.190. However the Interpersonal Relationships scale was close to significance, E(1,74)=3.553, p.=.063; and a significant gender effect was observed, E(1,74)=4.029, p.=.048. No time (occasion) by group interactions were found, E(1,74)=.988, p.=.324; and no time by group by gender interactions. (E(2,148)=3.404; p.=.036).

The second research hypothesis investigated the differences between the treatment group's symptoms at pretest and at 10 sessions. No main effects for treatment were found, E(1,19)=.140, p.=.712. Chi-square analyses were performed and the Interpersonal Relationships scale, E(1,19)=3.446, p=.079, was near significance. The Subjective Distress scale, E(1,19)=1.069, p=.314; Social Role scale, E(1,19)=2.165, p=.158; and Total scale, E(1,19)=2.073, p=.166 were

not significant.

The third research hypothesis addressed whether or not there was a linear relationship that could be seen for the effect of the psychotherapy on the subjects' symptoms. An analysis of variance with repeated measures again revealed no significant treatment effects across administrations of the OQ-45.11, $\underline{F}(1,19)=1.999$, $\underline{p}=.174$.

The final research hypothesis was interested in gender and if it would affect the outcome within the treatment group. A 2 X 3 multivariate analysis of variance with repeated measures revealed that there were no main effects for participants' gender. However, when time was compared to group and gender, a significant linear effect for time by gender interaction was found on the Subjective Discomfort scale, F(1,74)=5.56, p.=.022; and significant quadratic effects were found on the Interpersonal Relationships scale, F(1,74)=5.379, p.=.023, for time, group, and gender. Significant quadratic interactions were also found for time by group by gender for Interpersonal Relationships, F=6.568, p.=.012, and for Social Role, F=4.372, p.=.040. Results of analysis of variance for each of the main variables are included in Table 2.

Treatment Groups Compared

There were no differences found between participants in the treatment group who completed the OQ-45.11 all three times and those who did not on the Subjective Discomfort scale, E(1,19)=1.069, p=.314; Social Role Performance scale, E(1,19)=2.165, p=.158; or Total scale, E(1,19)=2.073, p=.166. Although there were no significant group effects found when the two treatment groups were compared, there were three quadratic effects and interaction effects found, time by gender for Interpersonal Relationships, E(1,19)=5.379, p=.023; time by group by gender for Interpersonal Relationships, E(1,19)=6.568, p=.012; time by group by gender for Social Role, E(1,19)=4.372, p=.040; and time by gender for Subjective Distress.

Table 2

Source	Measure	df	Mean Square	F	Sig. of F
Intercept	SD	 !	100955.111	408.780	.001
	IR	1	13803.178	244.624	.001
	SR	1	16829.139	681.371	.001
	TOTAL	1	319166.737	484.443	.001
GROUP	SD	1	491.924	1.992	.162
	IR	1	200.475	3.553	.063
	SR	1	65.441	2.650	.108
	TOTAL	1	1973.837	2.996	.088
GENDER	SD	l	76.311	.309	.580
	IR	1	227.323	4.029	.048
	SR	1	85.161	3.448	.067
	TOTAL	1	1091.715	1.657	.202
GROUP*GI	ENDER	*****			
	SD	1	178.591	.723	.398
	IR	1	4.934	.087	.768
	SR	1	75.934	3.074	.084
	TOTAL	1	590.441	.896	.347
Error	SD	74	246.967		
	IR	74	56.426		
	SR	74	24.699		
	TOTAL	74	658.832		

Results of Analysis of Variance for Treatment and Control Groups by Occasions

Note. SD = Subjective Distress, IR = Interpersonal Relations, SR = Social Role

Sample Means Compared

Students t tests measured whether the sample means differed from the normative means and the results are included in Table 3. There were no differences found between the normative means for normals and the sample means.

Table 3

Results of t Tests Comparing Sample Means with Normative Means from the OQ-45.11

Measure N	Normative Mean	Sample Mean	1	Significance
Symptom Distress	23.08	25.15	1.648	NS
Interpersonal Relation	ons 8.95	9.09	.208	NS
Social Role	10.37	9.95	.976	NS
Total	42.33	44.19	.887	NS

Chapter 4

Discussion

In general, the results of this analog study of treatment effects do not support the hypothesis that Subjective Well-Being scores of the treatment group would be significantly higher than those of the control group on the mid and post tests (Hypothesis 1). There was no significant group effect when the treatment group was compared to the control group at the pre-therapy and post-therapy testings and no significant treatment effects across administrations of the OQ-45.11. Symptoms were found to be unchanged at the end of the testing or post administration for all the participants. It is unknown what accounts for these effects. One cause may have been the semester that the student participants were in. They may have been affected by the spring break that took place near the mid-test. The end of the semester may have also increased their feelings of subjective distress as finals were soon to be taken.

Furthermore, both the treatment and control subjects were taken from an analog sample. The scores of the treatment and control subjects were all normal, and this may have reduced the amount of possible treatment effects before the independent variable, psychotherapy, could be administered. It seems that this study needed a clinical sample to administer the psychotherapy to for treatment and control groups.

Hypothesis 2 was not supported by the results either. Subjective Well-Being scores were not higher for the treatment group subjects tested after five, and ten sessions of individual psychotherapy than the scores of the same subjects on the pretest. A 2 X 3 multivariate analysis of variance with repeated measures revealed no significant treatment effects. Again, this may have been a result of using a non-clinical analog sample for the treatment group. The treatment groups' symptoms were not very high to begin with (pretest symptoms) and so clinically significant change was difficult to attain.

The results of this study do not support hypothesis 3 that Subjective Well-Being scores will be higher for the treatment group subjects tested after ten sessions than the scores of the same subjects after five sessions. An analysis of variance with repeated measures again revealed no significant treatment effects across administrations of the OQ-45.11. Time was found to not be a significant variable as there were no overall simple linear effects.

Gender was also found to have no effect on the outcome within the treatment group. A 2 X 3 multivariate analysis of variance with repeated measures revealed that the participants' gender did not predict outcome. However, when time was compared to group and gender, there were interaction effects. It is not clear what may have caused this. Interestingly, there was a quadratic effect on the Interpersonal Relationships scale and a quadratic effect was found, indicating a time by group by gender interaction on the Social Role Performance scale.

Treatment Groups Compared

The results of this study do not support differences between participants in the treatment group who completed the OQ-45.11 all three times and those who did not. Chi-square analyses were performed and the Interpersonal Relationships scale approached significance. Although there were no significant group effects found when the two treatment groups were compared, there were three quadratic effects and interaction effects found.

One interesting finding was that the participants in the study indicated a very similar response to item #17. "I have an unfulfilling sex life." While the majority of the participants

marked "Never" as their response, many of them wrote a note next to the item that indicated they do not participate in sexual behavior. As most all the participants are not married, this common response seems to point to the behavioral health of the sample. Perhaps this sample is not only non-clinical, it may be considerably healthy. The treatment group was pulled from this sample and their self-report symptoms were quite low as they began the psychotherapy. Reducing symptoms a significant amount in persons that are already in a healthy range is very difficult.

Comparison of Normative and Sample Means

When a Student's t-test was used to compare the means of the normative sample of undergraduates to this sample at pretest on the four scales no differences were found. This may be a result of comparing one relatively healthy group to another. It is likely that both of these undergraduate samples represent groups of people with very few clinical symptoms. Limitations

Although this current investigation attempted to understand the significance of dose-effect relationships in psychotherapy, several limitations of this study should be considered. The graduate student conducting the research served as a direct supervisor of the first-year doctoral students and his participation in the research may have affected psychotherapy outcomes in the college students. In addition, the first-year doctoral students' psychotherapy experience was varied and so may have had an unknown effect on the outcomes.

Perhaps the most significant limitation in the present study was the sample. Specifically, the treatment group was an analog sample of mostly healthy college students. This might have had the effect of limiting the amount of symptoms that could be reduced. For treatment effects to be demonstrated a significant amount of change is necessary; the normal pre-treatment scores of this sample made it difficult to measure any effects of the independent variable, psychotherapy.

Another limitation of this study might be in its specificity. The sample of undergraduate general psychology students at George Fox University may not represent the young-adult population as a whole. Participants in this study were largely Caucasian. Given the religious nature of the institution, we can assume that the majority of the participants were Christians. Due to their faith, many of the participants may not engage in substance abuse, sexual indiscretions, or have thoughts of ending their life. All three of these issues appear on the OQ-45.11 (five times) and can affect one's overall score of symptoms.

These results apply to self-referred college students who had been offered class credit for their participation in the study. Results might differ in outpatient clinics, hospitals or other non-academic settings. Finally, this study pertains only to the dose-effect relationship in adult psychotherapy, and the results may not generalize to child psychotherapy.

Suggestions for Future Research

Treatment outcome studies are essential to clinical decision making and guaranteeing costeffective care (Mirin & Namerow, 1991). The issue of treatment duration and optimal length has become a central focus recently. The present study attempted to address this issue, but the power of the study was diminished by the sample. Future dose-effect studies may benefit from taking their treatment group from a clinical sample. Using a more diverse sample would also be a better representative of the greater population. A larger sample would increase the power of the statistical tests.

Many studies described their favorite length of therapy and could cite much research to substantiate their views. For example, some have used the Consumer Reports study to make a case for a longer duration of treatment (Gurin, 1995). It seems as though treatment duration has become political and the studies being done are to back up ones' views and not to find what is best treatment. It would be best if those who conduct dose-effect studies would be open to more or less therapy for any particular problem and would avoid seeking to prove a particular treatment duration is optimal.

Conclusion

Although this study did not support the hypotheses that were established, it did provide valuable insights on how and how not to conduct a dose-effect study. The study reminds us of the value of a sample and how a analog sample can limit the possibility of clinically significant change. It is difficult and time-consuming to conduct treatment outcome studies. I hope that this study will encourage others to pursue treatment outcomes. As a result, mental health professionals will be better equipped to make treatment decisions in a professional manner.

It is recommended that future studies use a larger sample. Having the first-year students in the doctoral clinical psychology program counsel three or four college student volunteers per week would make that possible. It is also recommended that the study examine whether the analog therapy experience contributes to increased reporting of symptoms. The final recommendation is that the participants be split into a group of normals and clinicals at the outset of the study.

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Appendix A

Informed Consent

Informed Consent for Participation

I _______ understand that I am participating in a research project for the training of a graduate student in clinical psychology. As a participant, I will be given the Outcome Questionnaire (OQ.45.11) three times. In addition I will be given several survey questions that ask about my attitudes and beliefs related to social and religious beliefs and behaviors. I understand that I may discontinue my involvement in the research at any time. I also understand that all data will be kept confidential and only the graduate student conducting the research (Brian Whitehall) and the faculty members involved in the research, Dr. Rodger Bufford and Dr. Kathryn Ecklund will have access to my research data. I understand that there will be no reference to my name on any of the testing material. I will be assigned a number by the graduate student conducting the research who will protect my evaluation data from being attached to my name at all times.

Signature of participant:	Date:
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Participant Identification Number (to be placed on participant forms)

Appendix B

Data Code

Data Code

Identification: columns 1-3

Sex: column 4 - Male - 1, Female - 2, Missing data - 9

Group: column 5 - Treatment - 1, Control - 2

column 6 & 7 - leave blank

Scores: columns 8-33 SD1 - column 8&9 IR1 - column 10&11 SR1 - column 12&13 Total1 - column 14&15

Blank column 16

SD2 - column 17 & 18 IR2 - column 19 & 20 SR2 - column 21 & 22 Total2 - column 23 & 24

Blank column 25

SD3 - column 26 & 27 IR3 - column 28 & 29 SR3 - column 30 & 31 Total3 - column 32 & 33

The model is a repeated measures design and all data for a given participant are entered in a single string (one row) and you do not need to duplicate demographic information or ID#s.

Appendix C

Raw Data

Raw Data

Appendix D

Vita

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Vita

Brian J. Whitehall

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Education

- 1996-1999 Graduate School of Clinical Psychology: APA Accredited George Fox University, Newberg, Oregon Student in clinical psychology Psy.D. program
- 1994-1996 Graduate School of Clinical Psychology George Fox University, Newberg, Oregon M.A. in Clinical Psychology
- 1989-1993 Western Baptist College Salem, Oregon B.S. Psychology

Supervised Clinical Experience

7/99-6/00	Clinical Internship
	Northeastern Ohio Universities College of Medicine: APA Accredited
1/00-6/00	Portage Path Behavioral Health, Akron, OH.
	Population: Adults
	Duties: Individual Therapy and Intake Interviews. Co-facilitated a Dialectical
	Behavior Therapy group, a Partial-Hospitalization group, and a
	Transitional Support group. Developed treatment plans and worked with a
	multi-disciplinary treatment team. Comprehensive assessments of
	adults (Cognitive/IQ, Personality, and Characterological).
	Supervisor: Jim Mullen, Ph.D.
7/99-12/99	Massillon Psychiatric Center, Massillon, OH.
	Population: Chronically Mentally ill Adults
	Duties: Interviewed new patients and wrote evaluations. Individual Therapy.
	Led a Stress-Management group and co-facilitated a Dialectical Behavior
	Therapy group. Provided recommendations to multi-disciplinary treatment
	team. Wrote treatment plans for patients with the psychiatrist.
	Supervisors; David Aronson, Ph.D., ABPP and Phil Seibel, Ph.D.

9/98-4/99	Practicum III (Total Hours: 400)
	Lutheran Family Service, McMinnville, OR.
	Population: Adults, families, children
	Duties: Individual and Family Therapy. Co-facilitated two violence
	prevention groups for men. Conducted intakes, provided treatment
	recommendations and consulted with agency psychiatrist. Personality
	assessment and therapy for low-income children and adolescents in an
	outpatient setting.
	Supervisor: Susan Means, Ph.D.
9/96-6/97	Practicum II (Total Hours: 533)
	Oregon State Hospital, Salem, OR.
	Population: Chronically Mentally ill Adults
	Duties: Comprehensive assessments of inpatient adults with emphasis on
	neuropsychological assessment (Cognitive/IQ, Psychosocial,
	Characterological, and Neuropsychological). Individual and Group
	Therapy (Drug and Alcohol, Symptoms Management with emphasis on
	psychiatric rehabilitation). Risk assessment and screening process for a
	forensic, minimum custody unit.
	Provided recommendations to multi-disciplinary treatment team.
	Supervisor: Brett Rogers, Ph.D.
9/95-5/96	Practicum I (Total Hours: 642)
	Linn County Child and Family Services, Albany, OR
	Population: Adults, families, children
	Duties: Individual and Family Therapy. Co-facilitated anger management
	group for adolescents and their families in an outpatient mental health
	clinic. Comprehensive psychological assessments of children and
	adolescents primarily presenting with ADHD, Conduct Disorder, or
	Sexual Abuse at intake.
	Supervisor: Paul Stoltzfus, Psy.D.
9/94-5/95	Prepracticum (Total Hours: 75)
	George Fox University, Newberg, OR.
	Population: Adults
	Duties: Provided counseling to two undergraduate students.
	Received clinical training including: clinical skills, psychosocial
	assessment/history, mental status exam, intake interview, treatment
	plans, anger management, and critical incident response.
	Supervisor: Wayne Colwell, Ph.D.

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Other Work Experience

7/97-8/98	Mental Health Therapist Technician (Total Hours: 1,464)
	Oregon State Hospital, Salem, OR.
	Population: Adolescents, children
	Duties: Paid Position. Counseled and assisted children and adolescents with
	major mental illnesses. Documented on the treatment and progress of
	patients. Problem-solved with co-workers regarding treatment decisions
	and milieu management.
	Supervisor: Emma Alstott R.N.

Research Experience

10/97-present Dissertation

 Title: Dose-effect relations in simulated psychotherapy as measured by the outcome questionnaire-45.11.
 Description: A treatment outcome study, this research examines the efficacy of psychotherapy under varying doses, on the subjective well-being of University students.
 Chair: Rodger Bufford, Ph.D.
 Status: Final Oral completed. Making final changes.
 Anticipated date of completion: 3/01

 2/98-5/98 Program Development

 Assisted with development, implementation and consulting report

Assisted with development, implementation and consulting report assessing faculty student relationships at George Fox University.

Teaching Experience

9/97-4/98 Graduate Assistant (Total Hours: 227.5) Wayne Colwell, Ph.D.

PSY 530 Prepracticum Didactic

Duties: Paid Position. Assisted in the training of fourteen graduate students. Taught basic assessment and counseling skills, ethics, and self-awareness. Led two supervision groups, provided feedback and evaluations to trainees.

PSY 531 Prepracticum Didactic

Duties: Paid Position. Provided supervision to seven graduate student counselors providing individual therapy to undergraduate students. Taught continuing development of counseling skills, interventions, referrals, case conceptualization, and termination. Provided feedback and evaluations to trainces.

Professional Affiliations

American Psychological Association (Student Affiliate) 1994-present

Professional Seminars

- 10/98 Using The 16PF In Clinical Practice Michael Karson, Ph.D., ABPP
- 5/98 Race And Racism In Psychotherapy Alice Chang, Ph.D. & Nelson de Jesus, Ph.D.
- 4/98 Explicit, Implicit, Intentional Clinical Integration: Galileo and Wesley: Two old, but ever-new integration models. Newton Malony, Ph.D., ABPP
- 1/97 REBT Albert Ellis, Ph.D.
- 10/96 False Memory L. Polanski, Ph.D.
- 4/96 Brief Therapy: Object Relations Greggory, Hamilton, M.D.
- 4/96 Narcissistic Disorders Ralph Klein, M.D.

References

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Relevant Coursework

Core Courses:

Personality Theory Childhood Development Adolescence, Adulthood, and Aging Learning Legal, Ethical, and Professional Issues History and Systems of Psychology Social Psychology Statistical Methods Research Design Outcome Evaluation Systems of Psychotherapy Community Mental Health Abnormal Psychology

Clinical Theory and Practice:

Psychodynamic Psychotherapy Cognitive Behavioral Psychotherapy Family Therapy **Object Relations** Cross-Cultural Psychotherapy Therapeutic Communication Religious Issues in Psychotherapy Substance Abuse Psychology of Emotions Professional Issues Human Sexuality/Sexual Dysfunction Psychopharmacology/Psychoneurology Therapy with Women Forensic Psychology Group Dynamics Child/Adolescent Therapy Geropsychology Psychodynamic Integration Seminar

Clinical Assessment

Personality Assessment Cognitive and Intellectual Assessment Projective Assessment Neuropsychological Assessment Comprehensive Psychological Assessment