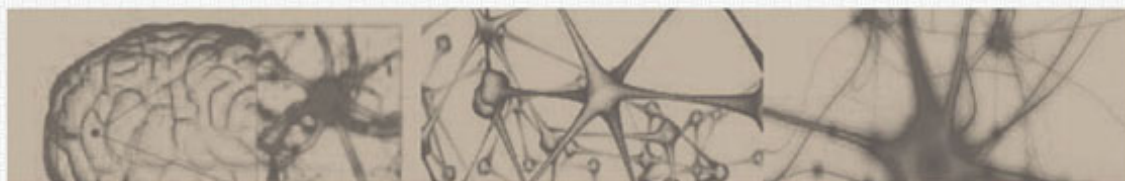


WG 4: Testing early intervention approaches through rigorous controlled trials

Activities 2011-2014



ESSEA

(Enhancing the Scientific Study of Early Autism)

COST Action BM1004

What is needed to align early intervention research in Europe and stimulate cross-center collaborations, eventually working towards a possible multi-center RCT?

1. Which studies have been completed in the last decade? → identifying labs with experience and capacity
2. What is treatment as usual? What are control groups getting?

What is needed...

- Content of the intervention:

3. Often parent mediated: to what extent are parents doing what we expect them to do?

4. Identifying a short, focused intervention with good theoretical and evidence base that could be suitable for a collaborative or multi-center trial

- Concerning outcome measures:

5. Parent-child interaction: how to code?

6. Other outcome measures used: very variable, sensitivity to change and to treatment effect?

1. Completed studies + identifying labs

- Initial search WoS
- Updates from COST members
- Additional search OVID, ERIC, ASSIA, July 2014
- Table available on COST-ESSEA website (brief version)

ESSEA Work Group 4:
Testing early intervention approaches through rigorous controlled trials. Summary of completed

Authors, Design	Sample	Primary outcome	Type
Green et al (2010) UK. RCT	152, autism, 24-59 months.	ADOS social communication algorithm (adapted).	~40 hours. Reci intervention.
Warreyn & Roeyers (in press, 2013). Belgium. RCT	36, 4-7 yrs	Play assessment of imitation & joint attention.	~12 hours. Nan behavioural.
McConachie et al (2005) UK. Controlled	52, ASD, 28-60 months	MCDI; parent interaction style	20 hours. Recip
Aldred et al (2004) UK. RCT	28, autism, 24-71 months.	ADOS, MCDI, parent-child interaction.	~18 hours. Soci intervention
Oosterling et al. (2010) Netherlands. RCT	75, ASD, mean 34.4 months	MCDI	~50 hours. Soci developmental
Drew et al. (2002) UK. RCT	24, autism, mean 22 months	Language/communication development (MCDI, ADI-R)	~24 hours. Soci developmental

- Send updates to Petra.Warreyn@ugent.be

2. What is treatment as usual?

- Part 1: Parent Survey (Erica Salomone)
 - Created brief online survey for parents to indicate the treatments their child (<7) is receiving
 - 1,680 parents in 18 countries completed the survey
 - STSM UK → Germany & Germany → UK in 2012
 - Work presented at IMFAR, 2013
 - Paper on access to services submitted
 - Paper on complementary/alternative treatments in preparation
 - Will/can also result in a questionnaire that can be used in future studies, e.g. EU-AIMS

2. What is treatment as usual?

- Part 2: Professionals survey (Judith Sinzig & Luise Poustka)
 - Professionals in same countries were asked about availability of and financial support for same treatment approaches
 - Data presented on WG4 meeting in Utrecht, April 2014
 - Paper in preparation

3. Parent adherence

Child: care, health and development

Review Article

doi:10.1111/cch.12185

Building capacity for rigorous controlled trials in autism: the importance of measuring treatment adherence

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4. Content of the intervention

- Group discussions on feasibility and availability: see overview table and TAU professionals
- Work presented at EACD, 2013 & IMFAR, 2013
- STSM UK – Belgium to explore possibilities for integrating iPad & therapist-led approach
- Utrecht 2014 + continued: discussion on identifying short, focused intervention with sufficient evidence base (in subgroup)

5. Measuring parent-child interaction

- 2013 Training school
- STSM Italy → UK: parent child interaction coding systems
- STSM Norway & France → Edinburgh (Sue Fletcher-Watson): joint engagement coding scheme & BOSCC (as outcome measures)
- STSM Belgium, Netherlands & Poland → UK (Jonathan Green): DCMA & MACI + adaptations for high-risk and typical population (for follow-up)
- Work presented at ICIS 2014
- Conceptual paper in preparation: why, what, & how

6. Harmonizing/recommending outcome measures

- Mapping variety of outcome measures + investigating reliability, sensitivity to change, proximity to the intervention, ...
- Literature search 2014
- Work presented at IMFAR 2013 & 2014
- Conceptual paper: first version circulated May/June 2014: in progress (Anett Kaale)

To be continued...