



Social Support and Acceptance Commitment Therapy on Subjective Well-Being and Mental Health of COVID-19 Patient

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Abstract

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Open Access: This is an open-access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial 4.0 International License (CC BY-NC 4.0) **BACKGROUND:** The COVID-19 pandemic does not only have a physical impact on the sufferers, restrictions on social interaction, and the existence of negative stigma from residents, but also have an impact on mental health and self-assessment on the patient. Nursing interventions can improve the mental health and happiness of patients, namely by providing social support and providing acceptance commitment therapy by the health workers. The provision of social support and acceptance commitment therapy aims to produce a meaningful life for patients undergoing treatment.

AIM: The aim of this study was to determine the effect of social support and acceptance commitment therapy on subjective well-being and mental health of COVID-19 patients.

METHODS: The research design used is quasi-experimental research with dependent pre-test and post-test samples. The sampling technique used is consecutive sampling to determine the sample according to the inclusion and exclusion criteria, with a total sample of 106 respondents who were divided into 53 respondents for the intervention group and 53 respondents for the control group. The independent variables in this study are social support and acceptance commitment therapy. Meanwhile, the dependent variables in this study are subjective well-being and mental health. The instruments used in this research are The Social Support Questionnaire, Meatal Health Inventory, and Satisfaction with Life Scale. Statistical analysis was conducted using t-test with p < 0.5.

RESULTS: The results show that in the intervention group, the difference in mean subjective well-being before and after the intervention is 6.88, while the difference in the mean of mental health before and after the intervention is 39.71. Furthermore, in the control group, the difference in mean subjective well-being before and after the intervention is 0.17, while the difference in the mean of mental health before and after the intervention is 0.02. Data analysis shows that social support and acceptance commitment therapy had an effect on subjective well-being and mental health of COVID-19 patients with p = 0.00.

CONCLUSION: The provision of social support and acceptance commitment therapy can be done as a preventive effort to maintain the mental health and subjective well-being of COVID-19 patients during the treatment period both in the hospital and independent isolation at home.

Introduction

COVID-19 is an infectious disease caused by severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2), a global pandemic. Transmission of this virus is through droplets that occur very quickly [1]. Currently, information regarding the number of COVID-19 viruses is still increasing regarding transmission, incubation period, symptoms, and quality of life of patients worldwide [2]. This long-lasting pandemic condition can have an impact on mental health problems for people who are positive for COVID-19. Patients with COVID-19 are very vulnerable to psychological impacts due to self-isolation at home or while undergoing treatment in a hospital for approximately 2 weeks to avoid physical contact with other people [3]. The psychological impact felt by COVID-19 sufferers can be in the form of stress, anxiety, and depression when ostracized by their social environment [4]. COVID-19 sufferers feel

anxious about their illness and there is a stigma in society that they must stay away from COVID-19 patients and their families so that patients feel excluded [5]. Negative feelings from within the patient will decrease the patient's subjective well-being or happiness and interfere with the patient's mental health [6].

The results of the mental health survey when the PDSKI swab was conducted online, explained that 63% of respondents experienced anxiety, and 66% of respondents experienced depression due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Research by Zhang *et al.* [7] showed that patients suffering from COVID-19 experienced a 29.2% increase in the incidence of depression after undergoing self-isolation. In July 2020, a COVID-19 patient in Surabaya, East Java, suicided by jumped from the 6th floor of the hospital due to depression because his swab results were tested positive 7 times. This case explains that the psychological problems in COVID-19 patients need to be addressed immediately. The results of the COVID-19 Report survey show 53.6% of

survivor respondents said they only involved their partners when they were first tested positive for COVID-19. Next are parents (21%) and friends/coworkers (10.5%).

The support given to COVID-19 sufferers is very meaningful. The same survey report that 70.2% of survivor respondents said they needed support by asking how they were doing [8]. Efforts to support mental health and subjective well-being for COVID-19 patients and survivors and their families can be conducted through the provision of social support. Social support from family, friends, and medical personnel can help patients to meet their psychological needs. The research conducted by El-Zoghby et al. [9] discovered that the provision of social support from family (64.7%) can improve mental health during the COVID-19 pandemic. Meanwhile, research conducted by Yang et al. revealed that there is a positive relationship between peer social support and subjective well-being (r = 0.285, p = 0.001), and there is a positive and significant relationship between family function and peer social support with subjective wellbeing p = 0.000 or p < 0.05 and F = 9.456 > F table 3.04. This study added a new variant that family functioning and peer social support can predict subjective well-being by 8.3%. Providing social support can create feelings of happiness and make patients think clearly to minimize mental health disorders in patients [10].

The research of Xu et al. [11] obtained results for susceptible, symptomatic but contented, depressed individuals. Before the intervention, there was no significant difference between the intervention group and the control group in terms of psychological distress, well-being, and psychological flexibility (p > 0.05). After the intervention, psychological distress and avoidance experience were significantly lower in the intervention group than in the control group. However, all dimensions of well-being were significantly higher in the intervention group than in the control group (p < 0.05). For susceptible, symptomatic but satisfied and depressed individuals, before and after the intervention, there were significant differences in psychological distress, well-being, and psychological flexibility from the intervention group (p < 0.05), but no significant differences in the control group (p > 0.05). In this case, acceptance commitment therapy aims to provide a meaningful life by accepting the illness suffered by COVID-19 patients [12]. Management that can be used to improve subjective well-being and mental health of patients is to provide social support and acceptance commitment therapy that can be provided by the family or by medical personnel [13]. Giving acceptance commitment therapy can increase the patient's psychological flexibility in living their daily lives in accordance with their values and life goals [14]. Acceptance commitment therapy can be carried out as a preventive effort to improve mental health and improve subjective well-being of COVID-19 patients.

The purpose of this study was to determine the effect of social support and acceptance commitment

therapy on subjective well-being and mental health of COVID-19 patients.

Methods

General background of research

This study used a quasi-experimental research design with the untreated control group design using dependent pre-test and post-test samples. This study involved two groups of subjects, namely the treatment group and the control group. The independent variables in this study were social support and acceptance commitment therapy. The dependent variable in this study is subjective well-being and mental health.

Sample of research

The population in this study were all positive COVID-19 patients at Surabaya Islamic Hospital who met the inclusion and exclusion criteria of the study. Sampling was done through consecutive sampling, in which the inclusion criteria are confirmed positive for COVID-19, composmentis awareness, vital signs within normal limits, while the exclusion criteria are the patient has decreased consciousness, communication disorders, and severe psychological disorders. Based on the criteria, the total respondents in this study were 106 respondents with 53 respondents in the intervention group and 53 respondents in the intervention group and 53 respondents in the intervention group, 27 were male and 26 were female, while in the control group 28 were male and 25 were female with an average age of 46–55 years in each group.

Instrument and procedures

The instrument used to measure the subjective well-being and mental health is an international standardized instrument. The measurement of subjective well-being was done by using the Satisfaction with Life Scale (SWSL) questionnaire. SWLS is an instrument composed by Ed Diener. This instrument is used to measure a person's life assessment of his life [15]. This instrument consists of 5 items with 7 rating scales consisting of (1) strongly dislike, (2) dislike, (3) slightly dislike, (4) moderate, (5) slightly like, (6) like, and (7) like it. Several studies reveal that these two instruments have high-reliability scores. SWLS has a reliability score of 0.82–0.87 and the Indonesian translation of SWLS has a reliability of 0.733.

Measurement of mental health using the Mental Health Inventory was developed by Veit and Jr (2015). The Mental Health Inventory includes 38 items in which the respondent uses a 6-point Likert-style response and it can generally be done without help. The test takes approximately 5–10 min to administer. There is an abbreviated version of the MHI which has only 5 items. This research used MHI 5 Items. According to the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, the Mental Health Inventory has a reported 0.93 Cronbach alpha rating whereas its abbreviated version has 0.82. This test is well-known and has been field-tested in extensive populations. Also, the Mental Health Inventory showed a high correlation rating with MSQLI or Multiple Sclerosis Quality of Life Inventory.

This research was conducted in April-June 2021. Researchers first held a zoom meeting regarding the management and benefits of research with medical personnel and prospective respondents, then asked for informed consent from the respondents and distributed the questionnaires via Google form assisted by the COVID-19 isolation room nurse. The pre-test was carried out 1 day before the intervention was carried out. The researchers acted as therapists who were assisted by medical personnel as research assistants where the intervention group received social support and acceptance commitment therapy which was carried out every day for 2 weeks for ±30 min during the process of implementing Acceptance Commitment Therapy which was divided into 5 sessions. Session 1 is the discussion of problems and exercises for acceptance techniques by observing, breathing, and allowing. Session 2 is discussion of useless thoughts and exercises cognitive diffusion techniques by doing mind relaxation. Session 3 is mindfulness practice using awareness of breath and awareness of eating. Session 4 is discussion of three aspects of life that were considered important by participants and filled out a value assessment rating to find out priorities in the patient's life. Session 5 is practicing setting goals, review of the whole session, post-intervention assessment, and termination (Liang Z, 2021). The control group was not given any intervention, only to carry out the routines (habits) of each respondent. The post-test was carried out 1 day after the intervention. This research has been approved by the Ethics Committee of the Surabaya Islamic Hospital with the number 008.EC.KEP.RSIAY.05.21

Data analysis

The normality of the data was tested using Kolmogorov Smirnov and the data were normally distributed so that it was continued with data analysis using the Paired t-test for data before and after on subjective well-being and mental health. The post-test data of the intervention group and the control group were analyzed using the Independent t-test with a hypothesis of p < 0.05.

Results

The characteristics of the participants in this study were based on age, gender, education,

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and occupation. The results of the characteristics of respondents in the study are as follows:

Table 1 shows that the characteristics of the research respondents obtained results that a small proportion in intervention and control group (24.5% and 20.8%) is in the early old age (46-55). For gender in both the intervention group and the control group, most of them are male (50.9% and 52.8%). Based on the educational background in the intervention group, almost half (45.3%) are Senior High School graduates, while in the control group, almost half (45.3%) are Senior High School graduates, half proportion in intervention and control group (35.8% and 32.1%) are Civil servant.

 Table 1: Characteristics of respondents in the intervention group and control group

Characteristics	Intervent	on group (n = 53)	Control group (n = 53)		
	f	%	f	%	
Age (Years)					
Late teens (17–25)	7	13.2	4	7.5	
Early adulthood (26–35)	9	17.0	11	20.8	
Late adulthood (36-45)	6	11.3	9	17.0	
Early old age (46–55)	13	24.5	11	20.8	
Late old age (56-65)	8	15.1	10	18.9	
Old age (>65)	10	18.9	8	15.1	
Sex					
Male	27	50.9	28	52.8	
Female	26	49.1	25	47.2	
Education					
Junior High School	21	39.6	23	43.4	
Senior High School	24	45.3	19	35.8	
University	8	15.1	11	20.8	
Occupation					
Student	7	13.2	4	7.5	
Entrepreneur	11	20.8	13	24.5	
Civil servants	19	35.8	17	32.1	
Private employee	4	7.5	4	7.5	
Does not work	12	22.6	15	28.3	

Table 2 the mean of mental health in the intervention group before the action was 34.21, while after the action, the mean of mental health was 73.92. For subjective well-being in the intervention group, before intervention was taken, an average of 10.06 was obtained and after intervention, the average value was 16.94, with p = 0.000. It means there is a significant increase in mental health and subjective well-being before and after being given social support and acceptance commitment therapy. Meanwhile, in the control group, the mean of mental health in the intervention group before the action was 34.00 and after the intervention, the mean of mental health was 34.02. For subjective well-being in the intervention group, before the action was taken, an average of 9.70 was obtained and after intervention, the average value was 9.87 with p = 0.0960 in mental health and 0.457 in subjective well-being, which means there was no significant increase in mental health and subjective well-being in the control group.

Table 2: Mental health and subjective well-being pre and post in the intervention and control group

Variable Group		Pre		Post		95% CI	t	n	p-value	
		Mean	SD	Mean	SD					
Mental	Intervention	34.21	2.36	73.92	2.11	(-40.69)-	-81.9	53	0.000	
Health						(-38.75)				
	Control	34.00	2.21	34.02	3.52	(-0.77)-	-0.05	53	0.960	
						(-0.73)				
Subjective	Intervention	10.06	2.30	16.94	2.09	(-7.53)-	-21.3	53	0.000	
Well-Being						(-6.24)				
	Control	9.70	2.59	9.87	2.69	(-0.62)-	-0.75	53	0.457	
						(-0.28)				

Table 3 shows that based on the results of data analysis, the p-value of 0.000 was obtained on the mental health and subjective well-being after the intervention. Meanwhile, in the intervention group the difference in mean subjective well-being before and after the intervention was 6.88, while the difference in the mean of mental health before and after the intervention was 39.71. In the control group, the difference in mean subjective well-being before and after the intervention was 0.17, while the difference in the mean of mental health before and after the intervention was 0.17, while the difference in the mean of mental health before and after the intervention was 0.02.

Discussion

COVID-19 is an infectious disease caused by SARS-CoV-2, a global pandemic. Transmission of this virus is done through droplets that occur very guickly [1]. Currently, information regarding the number of COVID-19 viruses is still increasing regarding transmission, incubation period, symptoms and quality of life of patients worldwide [16]. This long-lasting pandemic condition can have an impact on mental health problems for people who are positive for COVID-19. Patients with COVID-19 are very vulnerable to psychological impacts due to self-isolation at home or while undergoing treatment in a hospital for approximately 2 weeks to avoid physical contact with other people. The psychological impact felt by COVID-19 sufferers can be in the form of stress, anxiety, and depression when ostracized by their social environment [4]. COVID-19 sufferers feel anxious about their illness and there is a stigma in society that they must stay away from COVID-19 patients and their families so that patients feel excluded [5]. Negative feelings within the patient will decrease the patient's subjective well-being or happiness and interfere with the patient's mental health [6].

Table 1 shows that a small proportion of the intervention and control groups (24.5% and 20.8%) were in the elderly (46–55). Previous studies linking the age factor with mortality divided age into two groups, namely age of below 50-years-old and age above 50-years-old. The results show that the age group of above 50 years infected with COVID-19 had a higher risk of death than the age group below 50 years [17]. There is a relationship between age and the level of natural immunity, where elderly individuals are more likely to be infected and natural immunity decreases [18]. In addition, elderly individuals have consumed many drugs

or consumed several types of drugs simultaneously to treat comorbidities that resulted in decreased organ function [19]. Recent studies explain that patients aged above 50 years can experience excessive ACE2 expression as a result of decreased immunity, decreased organ function, comorbidities and several other causes that increase the risk of death.

The results showed that most of them were male in the intervention group and the control group (50.9% and 52.8%). Based on a meta-analysis study linking gender with the risk of COVID-19 infection, it is known that men are 28% more at risk of infection than women. Compared to the relationship between sex and mortality, men are 1.86% more likely to die than women [17]. Men have higher ACE2 expression, and this is linked to sex hormones that put men at higher risk of contracting COVID-19. ACE2 expression is encoded by a gene found on the X chromosome and females are heterozygous while males are homozygous, thus potentially increasing ACE2 expression. COVID-19 infection and some other clinical symptoms can be neutralized because women carry a heterozygous X label called sexual dimorphism [20].

Positive swab results cause psychological reactions such as denial or rejection of the condition, anger or anger, bargaining or bargaining for the situation that will occur, depression, and acceptance [21]. Acceptance Commitment Therapy (ACT) is a psychological intervention using acceptance and mindfulness strategies that use behavior change and commitment strategies to increase psychological flexibility [14]. Acceptance Commitment Therapy serves to increase a person's psychological flexibility with the values that exist within him so that he can create a meaningful life [22].

Implementation of Acceptance Commitment Therapy is divided into five sessions. Session one is discussing problems and practicing acceptance techniques by observing, breathing, and letting. Session 2 is discussion useless thoughts and practiced cognitive diffusion techniques by doing mind relaxation. Session three is mindfulness exercises using breath awareness and eating awareness. Session 4 is discussing three aspects of life that were considered important by participants and filled out a value assessment to determine priorities in the patient's life. Session 5 is practice setting goals, reviewing the entire session, post-intervention assessment and termination [23].

The results of the study in Table 3 show that the average mental health in the intervention group is

Table 3: The value of the difference in mental health subjective well-being pre and post in the intervention group and the control group

Variable	Group	Mean	SD	SE	n	Mean Difference	t	95% CI	p-value	
									Pre	Post
Mental Health	Intervention	73.92	2.11	0.29	53	39.71	70.84	(38.78)-(41.03)	0.335	0.000
	Control	34.02	3.52	0.48	53	0.02				
Subjective Well-Being	Intervention	16.94	2.09	0.29	53	6.88	15.13	(6.15)-(8.00)	0.753	0.000
	Control	9.87	2.69	0.37	53	0.17				

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39.71, and the average difference in subjective wellbeing in the intervention group is 6.88. This is based on the research results of Xiao et al. [24] on 1,472 health workers in Jiangsu Province. China, state that social support affects the mental health of health workers in dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic. Social support can be obtained from family members, superiors, and coworkers who are external sources that help in overcoming and overcoming a problem. The forms of social support during the current COVID-19 pandemic are (1) assessment support to solve problems or describe stressors, one of which is being a good listener, (2) real support, in the form of real assistance in solving problems, the assistance can be in the form of food, masks or medical equipment needed, (3) self-esteem support, support for a good self-view about oneself, in the form of economic assistance and mental support, and (4) support for a sense of belonging in the form of acceptance in one part or one group, in the form of social service not isolation for COVID-19 patients and medical personnel who treat COVID-19 patients [25].

Social support in dealing with the current coronavirus pandemic situation is very important in the human health dimension. Social support comes from close family, friends, co-workers, neighbors and friends in their activities. Social contact is very important for physical and mental health. Research shows that social contact and support can help reduce stress, depression, anxiety, isolation, self-esteem, normal life, well-being, and quality of life. In contrast, lack of social support has the opposite effect. The positive effect of good social support can be explained that this support has a direct impact on health and well-being because it provides comfort, a sense of purpose in life, and a sense of security. Social support can reduce various forms of stress, improve coping mechanisms and improve quality of life [26].

The implementation of Acceptance Commitment Therapy is divided into five sessions. Session one is discussing problems and practicing acceptance techniques by observing, breathing, and letting. Session 2 is discussing useless thoughts and practiced cognitive diffusion techniques by doing mind relaxation. Session three is mindfulness exercises using breath awareness and eating awareness. Session 4 is discussing three aspects of life that were considered important by participants and filled out a value assessment to determine priorities in the patient's life. Session 5 is practice setting goals, reviewing the entire session, post-intervention assessment and termination [23].

Limitations

Respondents are COVID-19 patients, thus limiting the movement of researchers and the team in data collection and intervention which was divided into several sessions, making respondents tired and bored.

Implications

Nurses as care service providers and health education providers are responsible for the health and mental well-being of COVID-19 patients.

Suggestions for further researchers:

- 1. Adding the population
- 2. Expanding the research area
- 3. Combining ACT with other interventions.

Conclusion

Regularly providing social support and commitment therapy can improve mental health and subjective well-being in COVID-19 patients. Improving Mental Health and Subjective Well-Being of COVID-19 sufferers can have a positive impact on patients. The provision of social support and acceptance commitment therapy can be carried out as a preventive effort to maintain mental health and subjective well-being of COVID-19 patients during the treatment period, both in hospital and self-isolation at home. The role of a nurse as care service providers and health education providers are responsible for the health and mental well-being of COVID-19 patients. Suggestions for further researchers is Adding the population, Expanding the research area and Combining ACT with other interventions.

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