Reviewer’s report

Title: The comparative effectiveness of Integrated treatment for Substance abuse and Partner violence (I-StoP) and substance abuse treatment alone: A randomized controlled trial

Version: 8 Date: 10 April 2013

Reviewer: Christine Timko

Reviewer’s report:

The comparative effectiveness of Integrated treatment for Substance abuse and Partner violence (I-StoP) and substance abuse treatment alone: A randomized controlled trial

Kraanen, Vedel, Scholing, & Emmelkamp

This study examined the effectiveness of integrated substance abuse-partner violence CBT treatment versus CBT that included one session addressing partner violence. Participants were entering substance abuse treatment and screened positive for IPV (N=52). Conditions consisted of 16 individual treatment sessions. Primary outcomes using intent to treat and treatment completion were substance use and IPV perpetration at baseline, 8 sessions, and 16 sessions. Secondary outcomes were also examined. No differences were found between conditions on primary outcomes; both conditions were effective. The CBT-SUD+ intervention is recommended because it is more efficient.

It is difficult to draw any conclusions from this study given the low treatment and research assessment completion rates.

Introduction

Methods

1. What is the rationale for selecting those who disclosed 7 or more acts of physical IPV? What are the psychometric characteristics (e.g., validity) of the measure?

2. It would be helpful to present empirical measures of treatment fidelity to demonstrate that conditions were truly different in content.

3. Psychometrics are needed on measures, for this sample. I believe all participants were not actually married (p. 12, marital satisfaction).

4. p. 12: Were some participants triaged to outpatient and others to inpatient treatment? If so, this is an important characteristic that needs to be considered in analyses. (I see in the discussion that inpatients were excluded; this may be helpful to clarify earlier.)

5. Shouldn’t ITT analyses include all participants?

6. Only 11 and 8 participants in the two conditions completed 75% of treatment
sessions.
7. Assessment rates at halfway through treatment and completion of treatment were quite low (49% and 39%, respectively).

Results

Discussion

An additional limitation of the study is the lack of follow-up post-treatment.

**Level of interest:** An article of insufficient interest to warrant publication in a scientific/medical journal

**Quality of written English:** Needs some language corrections before being published

**Statistical review:** No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests.