Target Area: Mood > Depression, Quality of life

Ciechanowski et al. (2010), Epilepsy &
Rehaviour 19 225-231

Method/Results

Design

Study Design: RCT

Population: 80 adults (42 females, M_{age} = 44) with ICD-9 epilepsy diagnosis and a Patient Health Questionnaire-9 (PHQ-9) score ≥ 10. Excluded if pregnant or nursing, Bipolar or Psychotic Disorder, current psychiatric treatment or substance abuse.

➤ Groups:

- 1. Usual Care (n=40, M_{age} = 44.4, SD = 11.1) 2. PEARLS (n=40, M_{age} = 43.4, SD = 11)
- > **Setting:** Patient in-home visits and phone contact for treatment of depression.

Primary outcome measure:

Hopkins Symptom Checklist-20 (HSCL-20; 0, 6 & 12 months)

Secondary outcome measures:

- Quality of Life in Epilepsy-31 (QOLIE-31; 0, 6 & 12 months)
- Participant-reported seizure frequency (with or without loss of consciousness)
- Anti-depressant, Benzodiazepine and antiepileptic use over 6 month periods.
- > Satisfaction with epilepsy health care

Results: Significant decrease in depression severity and suicidal ideation v Usual Care group in 0-12 mth comparisons. No difference in overall QOL, seizure frequency, medication use or satisfaction with health care.

PEDro score - 7/10

Rehabilitation Program

Aim: To reduce depression symptoms in sufferers of severe epilepsy using PEARLS, a home based, multi-modal depression intervention over 12 months.

Materials: PEARLS treatment package, available from authors.

Treatment Plan:

- > **Duration:** 12 months.
- ➤ **Procedure:** Eight 50 min in-home sessions (weeks 1-3, 5, 7, 11, 15, & 19), followed by monthly 5-10 min phone sessions with trained masters level social workers.
- > Content:
- Usual Care Group- Received notification of depression scores and encouraged depression treatment where appropriate. No further intervention applied.
- PEARLS Group- Patients received problem solving training, psychoeducation for epilepsy and depression and were coached to participate in moderate physical activity (≥ 30 mins, ≥ 5 times a weekly) and engage in pleasant social activities.