

Hope Therapy with Islamic Approach for Heart Disease

Mohammad Farhoush^{1,2*} , Mohammad Reza Jahangirzade³ , Mobin Salehi⁴ , Abbas Masjedi-Arani⁵ ,
 Mohammad Ali Jamshidi⁶ 

1- Department of Psychology, Faculty of Psychology, Semnan University, Semnan, Iran.

2- Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences, Center for Religious and Health Studies, Tehran, Iran.

3- Department of Psychology, Imam Khomeini Education and Research Institute, Qom, Iran.

4- Department of Psychology, Faculty of Humanities, Toloue Mehr Non-Profit University of Qom, Qom, Iran.

5- Department of Psychology, School of Medicine, Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences, Center for Religious and Health Studies, Tehran, Iran.

6- Department of Health Psychology, Faculty of Humanities, Edalat University, Tehran, Iran.

*Correspondence should be addressed to Mr. Mohammad Farhoush; Email: Farhoush.mohammad@gmail.com

Article Info

Received: Mar 30, 2020

Received in revised form:

May 12, 2020

Accepted: Jun 16, 2020

Available Online: Jun 22, 2021

Keywords:

Hope Therapy

Hope

Heart Disease

Islam

Sense of meaning

Abstract

Background and Objective: Cardiovascular diseases are one of the most important chronic diseases with many psychological effects such as extreme fatigue, anxiety and depression, which reduce the quality of life of the patients. In the meantime, it is important to pay attention to the role of hope. Hope is a positive psychological construct that protects people in the face of adversities. Given the importance of hope, Snyder developed the hope construct and its questionnaire. Therefore, the purpose of this study was to develop a hope therapy program based on Islamic teachings and the achievements of classical psychology.

Methods: The research method used in the present study was text-based and content analysis. To this end, the content related to the theory of hope in psychology and Islamic teachings was collected and analyzed. Based on the results of content analysis, the Hope construct consisted of seven components of knowing the purpose of life and having a tendency toward it, setting goals, motivation and self-motivational skills, trust, thoughtfulness, effort and the skill of coping with the obstacles. Then, the Islamic Hope Therapy package was designed for patients with heart diseases and its content validity was evaluated. After gathering the experts' opinion, the Hope Therapy Program was formulated with the final Islamic approach. In this study, all ethical considerations were observed and no conflict of interest was reported by the authors.

Results: The findings of the present study showed that the Islamic Hope Therapy program for patients with heart diseases consisted of eight ninety-minute sessions, which involved 1) establishing a therapeutic relationship and presenting goals and rationale behind the treatment, 2) becoming familiar with the purpose and meaning of life in Islam and strengthening its Attitude and role in hope, 3) Teaching goal-setting skills in line with the Main goals of life and setting meaningful, transparent, and logical goals, 4) explaining motivation and its importance, strengthening one's self-awareness of motivations, 5) spiritual motivation skills, 6) Planning and choosing the right path, enhancing creativity and planning skills, 7) the skill of encountering the obstacles and flexibility skills, 8) increasing the remembrance of God and having trust in Him and drawing conclusions.

Conclusion: Hope Therapy with Islamic approach has positive spiritual and psychological dimensions and is different from the Classic Hope Therapy.



<https://doi.org/10.22037/jrrh.v7i2.29715>

Please cite this article as: Farhoush M, Jahangirzade MR, Salehi M, Masjedi-Arani A, Jamshidi MA. Hope Therapy with Islamic Approach for Heart Disease. Journal of Pizhūhish dar dīn va salāmat. 2021;7(2):41-57. <https://doi.org/10.22037/jrrh.v7i2.29715>

Summary

Background and Objective

Heart disease is chronic and debilitating and has many psychological effects such as extreme fatigue, anxiety and depression (1). In the meantime, it is important to pay attention to the role of hope. Hope, as a positive psychological construct, protects individuals in the face of adversities (2) and has been studied as a significant construct in individual motivation and behavior (3). Hope is a process that allows people to set goals and pursue them (4).

Given the importance of hope, Snyder presented the structure of hope and its questionnaire. In Snyder's model, hope has three components: goal setting (set goals), direction (creating strategies to achieve those goals), and agency (motivating oneself through agency thinking to start and continue moving according to strategies). Hope therapy is a treatment program based on Snyder's theory of hope designed to increase hopeful thinking and strengthen activities related to goal pursuit (5). Hope therapy is designed in groups in 8 sessions of 1.5 hours. The contents of the eight sessions include: 1) familiarization of participants with the therapist and establishing a therapeutic relationship and familiarity with the cycle of despair, 2) familiarity with the cycle of hope, 3) training in goal setting skills and setting meaningful, transparent, logical, achievable and measurable goals, 4) the skills of working out solutions and finding the right path, in which participants create multiple paths to move towards the goals, 5) self-motivation skills and familiarity with motivational sources and preventing the loss of motivation, 6) strengthening the sense of purpose and progress and evaluating the movement towards the goals, 7) the skills of dealing with obstacles and problem solving and, if necessary, goals or passages, and 8) drawing conclusions and prevention of recurrence (6).

Studies have shown the role of spirituality in increasing hope in chronic diseases (7-9). Studies have also shown the role of hope in the spirituality of chronic patients (10). Thus, hope and spirituality seem to be interactively effective, and a package of hope mixed with spirituality can be offered for chronic diseases. Establishing a spiritual relationship with God the Almighty gives one the assurance that a strong force will always support him. By giving a spirituality dimension to problems, these people cope better with problems and are less stressed and anxious. Belief in the

support and help of God the Almighty also gives them more hope for recovery from illness (11). Praying to God strengthens positive emotions and hope in the person (12). Therefore, the purpose of this study is to design a hope therapy package with an Islamic approach for patients with heart diseases, a package that uses the achievements and techniques of classical psychology and Islamic spiritual teachings.

Methods

Compliance with ethical guidelines: In the present study, the principles of ethical research, including the confidentiality of the identity and personal information of experts and taking into account the opinion of each expert in general and the final summarization of the opinions of experts were observed.

This is a text-based study and was conducted using content analysis with contextual theory approach. For this purpose, the content related to the theory of hope was collected and the content was analyzed. Based on the findings of content analysis, the structure of hope was designed and presented to 12 experts to assess the validity of the content. After collecting the opinions of the experts, the hope therapy program was developed using the final Islamic approach.

Results

The construct of hope with an Islamic approach includes 7 components of recognizing the purpose of life and having a tendency toward it, goal-setting skills, motivation and self-motivation skills, trust, working out solutions and finding the right path, effort and perseverance, and coping skills. These seven components interact with each other. By recognizing the purpose of life and the tendency towards it, a person creates a sense of spiritual meaning and evaluates every moment of life as an opportunity to get closer to God. With goal setting skills, he sets appropriate goals in various fields and has a high spiritual motivation to achieve the goals, uses skills to increase motivation, devises plans and paths to achieve goals, strives to achieve goals, and trusts God given His infinite power and kindness, and overcomes obstacles. S/he predicts well and deals with them. Based on these components, a hope therapy package was developed.

Conclusion

Findings of the study related to Omid (hope) therapy program with an Islamic approach for patients with heartdiseases include eight ninety-minute sessions. The objectives of the sessions included 1) familiarity of participants with the

therapist and establishing a therapeutic relationship and presentation of goals and the logic of treatment, 2) familiarity with the purpose and meaning of life in Islam and strengthening the tendency towards it and its role in hope, 3) teaching the skill of goal setting in line with the main purpose of life and setting meaningful, transparent, logical, achievable and measurable goals, 4) explaining its motivation and importance, strengthening one's self-awareness towards his/her motivations, 5) strengthening the spiritual motivational skills and giving a spiritual dimension to goals, 6) planning and choosing the right path, strengthening creativity and the planning skills, 7) predicting and overcoming the obstacles, flexibility skills 8) strengthening the remembrance of God and trusting Him and drawing conclusions.

The hope therapy package designed with an Islamic approach has some advantages over Snyder's classic hope therapy package and the hope therapy package based on Salehi's Islamic sources. The classic hope therapy package strengthens the goal-setting skills in individuals to set clear, logical, and measurable goals, then consider multiple paths and routes to achieve those goals and maintain their motivation along the way (13). Islamic hope therapy also uses goal-setting skills, but all of these goals are integrated into the purpose of life. Snyder emphasizes that the goal must be valuable enough for the individual to reinforce conscious thinking about achieving it (5). In the hope therapy package with Islamic approach, the purpose of life is the spiritual growth of the soul and readiness to enjoy the manifestations of God in the hereafter. This purpose gives meaning to the whole life of man and makes life valuable and plans are made in this direction. This goal integrates all aspects of a person's life in a meaningful way. But in Snyder's classic hope therapy, goals can conflict with each other, and conflict is a source of stress. One of the advantages of the present package is setting goals in different areas towards a main goal and making the person active to achieve those goals.

Acknowledgements

The authors would like to thank all the experts who helped in the evaluation of the content validity of Hope Therapy package.

Ethical considerations

The authors declared the ethics committee in biomedical research of Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences and Health

Services has approved this research with the ethics code IR.SBMU.RETECH.REC.1395.845.

Funding

The authors of the article declared the Center for Religious and Health Studies affiliated with Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences has sponsored this research.

Conflict of interest

The authors declared no conflict of interest.

Authors' contribution

Explaining the background of the study and writing the discussion and conclusion sections and helping to develop the construct of hope and the hope therapy package: First author; Summarizing, analyzing the content of the data and compiling the hope therapy package: Second and third authors; helping to formulate the general structure of the article: Fourth author; and collecting and analyzing the data and presenting the construct of hope: Fifth author.

References

- Huffman JC, Legler SR, Boehm JK. Positive psychological well-being and health in patients with heart disease: a brief review. *Future cardiology*. 2017;13(5):443-50.
- Aspinwall LG, Tedeschi RG. The value of positive psychology for health psychology: Progress and pitfalls in examining the relation of positive phenomena to health. *Annals of behavioral medicine*. 2010;39(1):4-15.
- Jason LA SE, Light JM. The relationship of sense of community and trust to hope. *Journal of community psychology*. 2016 Apr;44(3):334-41.
- Feldman DB, Kubota M. Hope, self-efficacy, optimism, and academic achievement: Distinguishing constructs and levels of specificity in predicting college grade-point average. *Learning and Individual Differences*. 2015;37:210-6.
- Cheavens JS, Feldman DB, Woodward JT, Snyder C. Hope in cognitive psychotherapies: On working with client strengths. *Journal of cognitive Psychotherapy*. 2006;20(2):135-45.
- Snyder CR. *Handbook of hope: Theory, measures, and applications*: Academic press; 2000.
- Salehi M, Pasandideh A, Janbozorgi M, Rasoolzadeh Tabatabaei SK. The Model of Hope Based on Islamic Sources and Designing its Therapy Protocol. 2. 2018;1(3):7-34. (Full Text in Persian)
- Binaei N, Moeini M, Sadeghi M, Najafi M, Mohagheghian Z. Effects of hope promoting

interventions based on religious beliefs on quality of life of patients with congestive heart failure and their families. Iranian journal of nursing and midwifery research. 2016;21(1):77-83. (Full Text in Persian)

9. Rahmanian M, Moein Samadani M, Oraki M. Effect of spirituality group therapy on life expectancy and life style's improvement of breast cancer patients. Biannual Journal of Applied Counseling. 2017;7(1):101-14. (Full Text in Persian)

10. Barton KS, Tate T, Lau N, Taliesin KB, Waldman ED, Rosenberg AR. "I'm not a spiritual person". How hope might facilitate conversations about spirituality among teens and young adults with cancer. Journal of pain and symptom management. 2018;55(6):1599-608.

11. Asgari P, Roushani K, Mohri AM. The relationship between religious belief, optimism and spiritual well being among college students of Islamic Azad University. 2009. (Full Text in Persian)

12. Farhangi D. Relationship of Spiritual Experiences and Hope with Living in Present among Men with Cancer in Tehran. Journal of Pizhūhish dar dīn va salāmat. 2019;5(2):75-88. (Full Text in Persian)

13. Bahramian J, Zaharakar K, Rasouli M. The effect of hope based group therapy approach on the severity of depression in multiple sclerosis patients. Iranian Journal of Rehabilitation Research in Nursing. 2014;1(1):12-22. (Full Text in Persian)