European Psychiatry S3

Abstract: Digital interventions for common mental disorders are coming of age. The uptake of evidence-based self-guided and guided (a-synchronic in time) cognitive behavioural digital interventions for depression and anxiety in routine care is however low. Blended treatment formats appear an attractive alternative for routine care settings as these combine face-to-face sessions with digital ones in integrated treatment protocols. Yet little is known about the clinical and cost-effectiveness of blended CBT (bCBT). In this presentation I will touch upon the current state of the art of digital interventions for depression and anxiety disorders, including blended formats in routine care and I will go beyond that state by addressing new developments. I will illustrate these new developments by virtue of several studies (RCT's) we conducted on the clinical and cost-effectiveness of blended CBT interventions (and their implementation) in routine care settings. A specific focus will be put on blending digital phenotyping in CBT treatment which includes mobile ecological momentary assessment tools and AI algorithms.

Conclusion: While digital mental health for depression and anxiety in routine care was boosted through the Covid-19 pandemic, the question remains whether the current knowledge base will leveraging digital mental health research and services to the next level. Implications for future research on blended treatments and clinical applications in routine care will be discussed.

Disclosure of Interest: None Declared

SOA0004

Cost-effectiveness of psychotherapies and pharmacotherapies for mental disorders

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Abstract: Mental health problems have a substantial economic impact across the world. Those who have their problems detected may receive therapies (usually medication or psychological) or who packages of care (for example, early intervention or residential support). Some problems are transient while others will remain across the life course. Costs are closely associated with care received and it may be that costs need to rise in order to provide adequate support. Economic costs also occur due to lost opportunities such as work and leisure. This talk will summarise recent estimates of the cost of mental health problems in a number of countries.

Establishing total costs does not tell us how to use limited resources. This requires the use of economic evaluation methods such as cost-effectiveness and cost-utility analyses. There is a growing evidence base from such evaluations for many psychological and pharmacological interventions and recent key findings will be discussed. The need for long-term, life course approaches to economic evaluation of mental health interventions will be proposed.

Disclosure of Interest: None Declared