

Reducing Psychological Harm from Traumatic Events Among Children and Adolescents: Pharmacologic Therapy

Task Force Finding

Intervention Definition

The intent of pharmacologic therapy is to focus on disabling the symptoms that follow trauma, so that a traumatized child is able to pursue a normal developmental pattern and to increase tolerance to emotionally distressing material and work through such distress.

Task Force Finding (June 2006)*

The Task Force finds insufficient evidence to determine the effectiveness of pharmacological therapy in reducing psychological harm in children and adolescents because there were too few studies and the effects assessed were short-lived.

*From the following publication:

Task Force on Community Preventive Services. Recommendations to reduce psychological harm from traumatic events among children and adolescents. *Am J Prev Med* 2008;35(3):314-6.

Publications

Wethington HR, Hahn RA, Fuqua-Whitley DS, Sipe TA, Crosby AE, et al. The effectiveness of interventions to reduce psychological harm from traumatic events among children and adolescents: a systematic review. *Am J Prev Med* 2008;35(3):287-313.

Task Force on Community Preventive Services. Recommendations to reduce psychological harm from traumatic events among children and adolescents. *Am J Prev Med* 2008;35(3):314-6.

Disclaimer

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