

Mapping key ethical issues surrounding electroceutical treatments for depression

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Introduction

Psychiatric electroceutical interventions (PEIs) use electrical stimulation with the aim to improve cognitive, emotional and behavioral abilities in severe psychiatric patients. PEIs include electroconvulsive therapy (ECT), transcranial magnetic stimulation (TMS), and deep brain stimulation (DBS). While literature is emerging discussing ways to improve clinical employment of these interventions and also addresses significant ethical issues, little research has explored the interrelations of ethical issues across these interventions.

Research Aims

We aim to develop an analytic map that displays - among other things - the relationships among ethical issues, the focus of different clinical guidelines, and the differences and similarities across three different PEIs when used for major depression.

Methods

We conducted a literature review in peer-reviewed articles about PEIs.



We included articles that included discussion of ethical issues and clinical guidelines. In this poster we used the case of informed consent as an example of ethical issues.

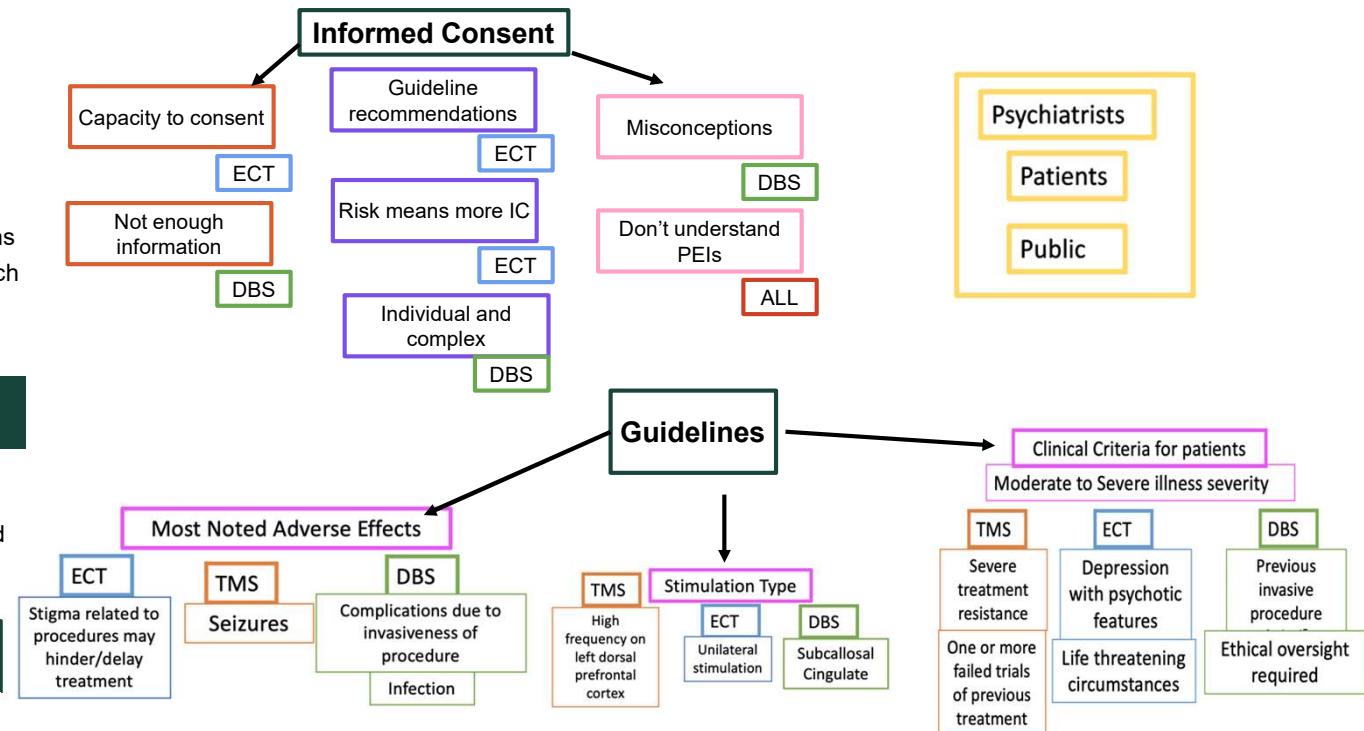


We conducted content analysis to extract common themes across articles.



We synthesized knowledge from the informed consent and clinical guidelines literature into the analytic map model.

Analytic Map



Discussion

Informed consent

- Capacity to consent is a major theme, with a divided view on whether patients have capacity or not capacity (ECT and DBS)
- Increased riskiness requires a more involved informed consent process
- Several articles put forward recommendation to improve informed consent (ECT)

Guidelines

- For all interventions clinical criteria range from moderate to severe illness severity
- There was overall consensus on stimulation parameters for TMS and ECT, but not so for DBS
- Guidelines consider each intervention's unique risk-benefit profile suggesting when these interventions should be tried ECT/TMS and DBS mostly as a last resort adverse effects

Future Steps

- This map will be integrated with survey and interview results
- Multiple stakeholder perspectives across different modalities
- Anticipate ethical issues that need consideration
- Strategize methods to address these issues
- Provide rich and diverse information to promote meaningful engagement

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