

Delivering CBT for Insomnia in Psychosis

A CLINICAL GUIDE



Flavie Waters, Melissa J. Ree, and Vivian Chiu





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Delivering CBT for Insomnia in Psychosis

Individuals with psychiatric disorders such as schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, and post-traumatic stress disorder often report Insomnia and difficulties sleeping, which can significantly impede recovery, worsen symptoms, and reduce quality of life. This volume presents a detailed theoretical rationale and session-by-session outline for delivering Cognitive Behaviour Therapy for Insomnia to people with these mental health disorders. The treatment has been developed in close collaboration with people living with mental illness, as well as sleep specialists and psychosis experts. Information regarding the efficacy of the programme is presented, along with resources offering information on complicating factors, avoiding relapse, managing stress, and restoring lifestyle balance.

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A Clinical Guide Waters, Ree, and Chiu

Preface

There is such solid evidence with regards to the pivotal role that sleep plays in mental health. Poor sleep is not just an epiphenomenon of a psychiatric condition, but rather it is both a cause and a consequence of poorer mental health. It is clear that treatment of sleep problems in their own right ought to be the standard for everyone reporting mental health problems and sleep difficulties.

In the case of psychotic disorders, we know that, when sleep improves, psychiatric symptoms and daytime function also improve. Evidence is accumulating that even those with severe mental illness can benefit from psychological and behavioural approaches to poor sleep. Although the field of CBT for Insomnia (CBT-I) in the context of psychotic disorders is relatively new, it has reached a stage where dissemination of CBT-I treatment details may facilitate clinical outcomes and personal recovery. This book is intended to provide a concise description of both the treatment rationale and treatment delivery particulars. It also provides a CBT-I Therapist Manual and take-home client resources to address Insomnia and related sleep problems in people with chronic psychotic disorders whose levels of functioning and psychopathology are at the severe end of the continuum, and who have previously been considered too low functioning for traditional CBT-I treatment options.

We hope that this book may serve as a step towards better awareness regarding the effectiveness of CBT-I and greater opportunities for training in behavioural sleep medicine in the psychiatric sector so that the ideal of routine sleep treatment can become a reality.

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Abbreviations

5HT	Serotonin
ACh	Acetylcholine
BzRA	Benzodiazepine receptor agonistic modulator
CBT	Cognitive Behaviour Therapy
CBT-I	Cognitive Behaviour Therapy for Insomnia
СВТр	Cognitive Behaviour Therapy for psychosis
CPAP	Continuous positive airway pressure
CT	Cognitive therapy
DASS	Depression Anxiety Stress Scales
DBAS	Dysfunctional Beliefs About Sleep scale
DBAS-16	Dysfunctional Beliefs and Attitudes about Sleep Scale—16-item version
DLMO	Dim light melatonin onset
DSM-V	Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (fifth edition)
EEG	Electroencephalogram
ESS	Epworth Sleepiness Scale
GABA	Gamma-aminobutyric acid
GOOBICS	Get out of bed if you can't sleep
HPA	Hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal
ICSD-3	International Classification of Sleep Disorders (3rd edition)
ISI	Insomnia Severity Index
MAOI	Monoamine oxidase inhibitor
MEQ	Morningness–Eveningness Questionnaire
MINI	Mini International Neuropsychiatric Interview
MINI psychosis	Mini International Neuropsychiatric Interview Psychotic Disorders
	module
MSLT	Multiple Sleep Latency Test
N1	Stage 1 NREM sleep
N2	Stage 2 NREM sleep
N3	Stage 3 NREM sleep
N4	Stage 4 NREM sleep
NGO	Non-governmental organisation
NREM	Non-rapid eye movement
OCD	Obsessive—compulsive disorder

Patient Health Questionnaire for Anxiety and Depression

Obstructive sleep apnoea

Polysomnography

Periodic limb movement disorder

OSA PHQ-4

PLMD

PSG

xiv Abbreviations

PSQI Pittsburgh Sleep Quality Index PTSD Post-traumatic stress disorder

REM Rapid eye movement RLS Restless legs syndrome

SAMI Sleep Associated Monitoring Index SHiK Sleep Hygiene Knowledge Scale SHiK-B Sleep Hygiene Behaviours Scale

SNRI Serotonin-norepinephrine-reuptake inhibitors

SSRI Selective serotonin-reuptake inhibitors

TAU Treatment as usual

TCQI-R Thought Control Questionnaire for Insomnia-Revised

TNID Turning nightmares into dreams

Z-drugs Benzodiazepine receptor agonistic modulators

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1 Introduction

The term 'psychosis' refers to a constellation of clinical symptoms such as hallucinations, delusions, and disorganised thinking, alongside negative symptoms such as reduced motivation and social withdrawal. People living with psychotic symptoms often suffer from disorders such as schizophrenia, schizoaffective disorder, bipolar disorder, substance-induced psychosis, and even major depression or post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

Approximately half of these individuals have other co-occurring difficulties such as cognitive impairments, social and occupational difficulties, and other physical health concerns, many of which persist between psychotic episodes. There is increasing evidence that almost all individuals with psychotic disorders also experience difficulties with their sleep. Approximately half meet the criteria for Insomnia Disorder (from hereon in, also referred to as Insomnia) and/or co-morbid sleep complaints such as hypersomnia, circadian rhythm disturbances, and nightmares.

These disorders of sleep are often distressing and can directly impact on clinical symptoms and the clinical course of an individual's mental health disorder, as well as their physical health, cognition, and quality of life (see Figure 1.1). Consequently, so that the health and functional recovery of people with psychotic disorders can be optimised, there is a critical need to address and provide effective treatment options for their disturbed sleep. To this end, cognitive behavioural therapy for Insomnia (CBT-I) offers great promise, and this book outlines the theory, evidence, and a detailed description of CBT-I for use in the context of psychotic disorders.

The Psychological Treatment of Psychotic Disorders

There is now robust evidence that psychological treatments can assist in the recovery of individuals with psychotic disorders. Clinical practice guidelines recommend that psychological interventions, such as cognitive behavioural therapy (CBT), should be routinely offered alongside antipsychotic medications as a first-line treatment option (e.g. National Collaborating Centre for Mental Health, 2014).

The use of CBT, in particular, has a 20-year history of treating symptoms of psychotic disorders, with more than 50 randomised controlled trials. Typically, effect sizes are robust, with reports ranging between 0.3 and 0.5 (e.g. Beck and Rector, 2000; Wykes et al., 2008; Grant et al., 2012). Furthermore, CBT has been found to promote a recovery-oriented approach to mental health practice (Bellack, 2006) and is a treatment option that people with psychosis express a desire to engage in (e.g. Kilbride et al., 2013; Waters et al., 2015).

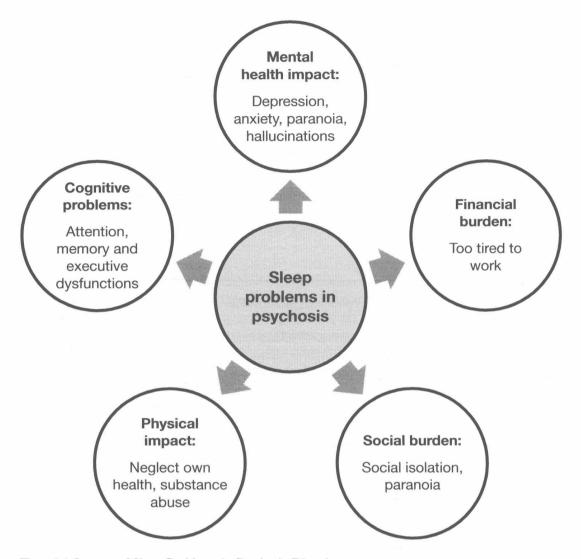


Figure 1.1 Impact of Sleep Problems in Psychotic Disorders

The Treatment of Insomnia and Other Sleep Disturbances Using CBT-I

There is extremely robust evidence for the effectiveness of CBT in addressing sleep disturbances in the general population (CBT-I). Findings show that CBT-I produces longer-lasting effects than pharmacological interventions alone and should be promoted as a first-line treatment option (Jacobs et al., 2004; Qaseem et al., 2016; Schutte-Rodin et al., 2008).

More recently, CBT-I alongside usual treatment (i.e. pharmacological) has emerged as an intervention that has the potential to provide long-term solutions for sleep problems in people with a psychotic disorder (e.g. Freeman et al., 2015; Harvey et al., 2015). Despite the benefits of evidence-based psychological interventions, however, people living with severe and persistent psychotic symptoms often have limited access to these treatment options. This is partly because standard CBT-I programmes need to be adapted to address the additional challenges and circumstances of people with psychotic disorders. When they are adapted appropriately, there is emerging evidence that such programmes can be highly effective for this population.

The aim of this book is to provide a CBT-I framework for clinicians working to address and treat the disorders of sleep in individuals with a psychotic illness. In particular, the manual provides strategies to address Insomnia and related sleep problems in people with chronic psychotic disorders whose levels of functioning and psychopathology are at the severe end of the continuum, and who have previously been considered too low-functioning for traditional CBT-I treatment options. We hope that this book presents a strong argument that clinically meaningful gains can be made with a CBT-I approach for individuals with psychosis.

The development of the manual

We have developed and evaluated a manualised, four-session CBT-I intervention that specifically addresses sleep complaints and related daytime sleepiness in low-functioning individuals with psychotic disorders. Client resource packs and additional materials are also provided to assist the therapeutic process and to encourage clients to self-manage their difficulties. The intervention manual can be administered in either a group or individual format.

The development of this manual and its resources arose from close collaboration with people living with psychotic disorders and Insomnia. Between 2011 and 2014, surveys and focus groups were conducted with representatives from this clinical group to elicit detailed information regarding their personal experience of sleep problems, antecedent factors, and the subsequent impact of these difficulties (Waters et al., 2011, 2012, 2013; Chiu et al., 2016). This preliminary research also identified the knowledge gaps and cognitive styles of these individuals (Chiu et al., 2015), as well as the symptoms they most wanted treated and their preferred method of treatment (Waters et al., 2015).

These findings, together with in-depth enquiries during the development and piloting of the intervention, have ensured that the manual and its resources meet the needs and particular treatment challenges of people with psychotic disorders. Our research indicated that adaptations to standard CBT-I were required so that the specific challenges faced by those with a psychotic disorder were addressed.

Adaptations to CBT-I in this population should ideally accommodate:

- hypersomnia, circadian (sleep-wake) rhythm disruptions, and nightmares because these commonly co-occur with Insomnia;
- the intrusive thoughts, hallucinations, and paranoia that contribute to difficulties in falling asleep and night-time arousal;
- the common use of nicotine, caffeine, alcohol, illicit drugs, and psychotropic medications that impact on sleep onset and quality;
- the lack of daytime structure (e.g. due to low mood, avoidance, unemployment, social isolation) that disrupts sleep routines and circadian rhythms;
- the presence of learning difficulties and other cognitive deficits in domains such as attention and concentration;
- negative symptoms (see Box 2.1), low mood and anxiety;
- · low motivation and low self-efficacy.

It is extremely encouraging to see that independent international research appears to be converging on a similar set of adaptations to standard CBT-I for use in individuals with a psychotic disorder. In particular, the work of Freeman and colleagues, in the UK, and Harvey and colleagues, in the USA, have suggested consistent adaptations in their CBT-I protocols.