

Net-step: a therapist-delivered internet psychotherapy for depression in primary care

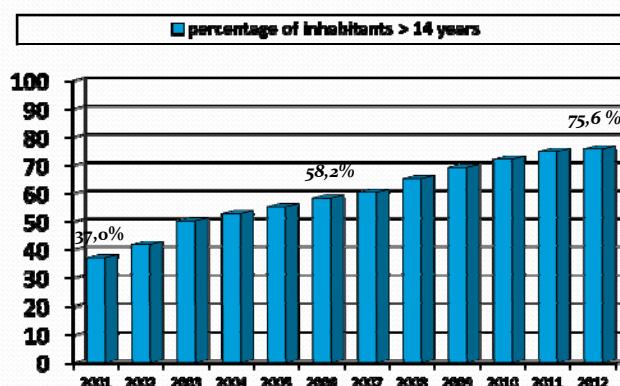
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Use of the Internet in Germany



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Subjects of internet search concerning health

(Stretcher et al. 2007)

Specific disease	65 %
Diet	51 %
Drugs	40 %
Sexual problems	12 %
Psychological/ psychiatric problem	23 %



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Pros and Cons of internet – psychotherapy



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Pros for internet - psychotherapy

- flexibility with regard to time of therapy
- flexibility with regard to place of therapy.
- good reachability
- no „stigma“ of going to a psychotherapist
- less (??) costs of therapy
- early intervention and less waiting time



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Cons of Internet - psychotherapy

- limited options for crisis intervention
- no additional (non)verbal or behavioral signals during session
- reduced emotionality in sessions
- difficulties in safe data protection using the internet



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Self-help based programs and Internet-Psychotherapy in comparison

- Multiple studies showed a **higher number of drop outs** und **smaller positive effects** using self-help or computer based programs in comparison with therapist-delivered internet-psychotherapy.

Spek et al., 2007

Titor et al., 2009



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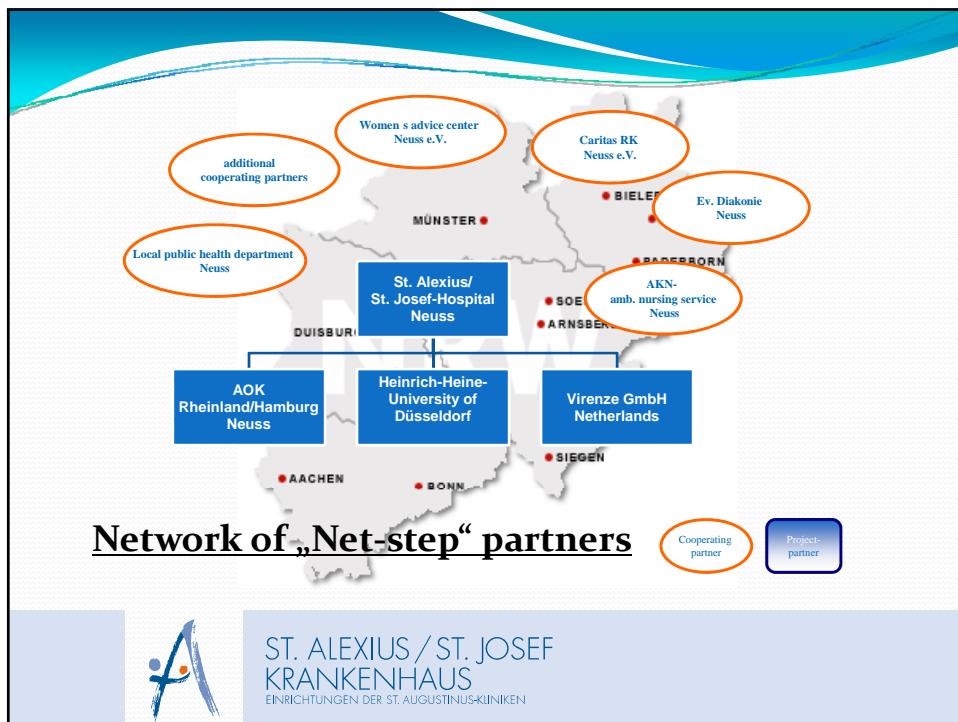


www.net-step.de

It's only a click ... to do the next step!



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net-step key-points



-  Internet-psychotherapy with low number of face to face contacts
-  Diagnostic phase „face to face“ with experts (psychological psychotherapist + psychiatrist)
-  Modules of cognitive behavioral therapy
-  Project in cooperation with AOK (health insurance) and Institute of Psychology (Heinrich-Heine-University of Düsseldorf)



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net-step key-points



-  Term of the study: 20 months
-  depression, (ICD 10: F 32.0, F 32.1, F 33),
-  In a randomised controlled trial 60 individuals with a score of 16 or more on the Beck depression inventory (BDI) and a confirmed diagnosis of depression were recruited from practitioners, hospital ambulance or via the internet.



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net-step key-points



- Every participant was invited for a personal talk and was tested face to face in the hospital ambulance.
- After confirmation of the diagnosis participants were randomly assigned to 12-weeks CBT online or to a face to face CBT for the same period of time.
- A waiting group (control) of 30 individuals received online-CBT after a 12-week waiting period.



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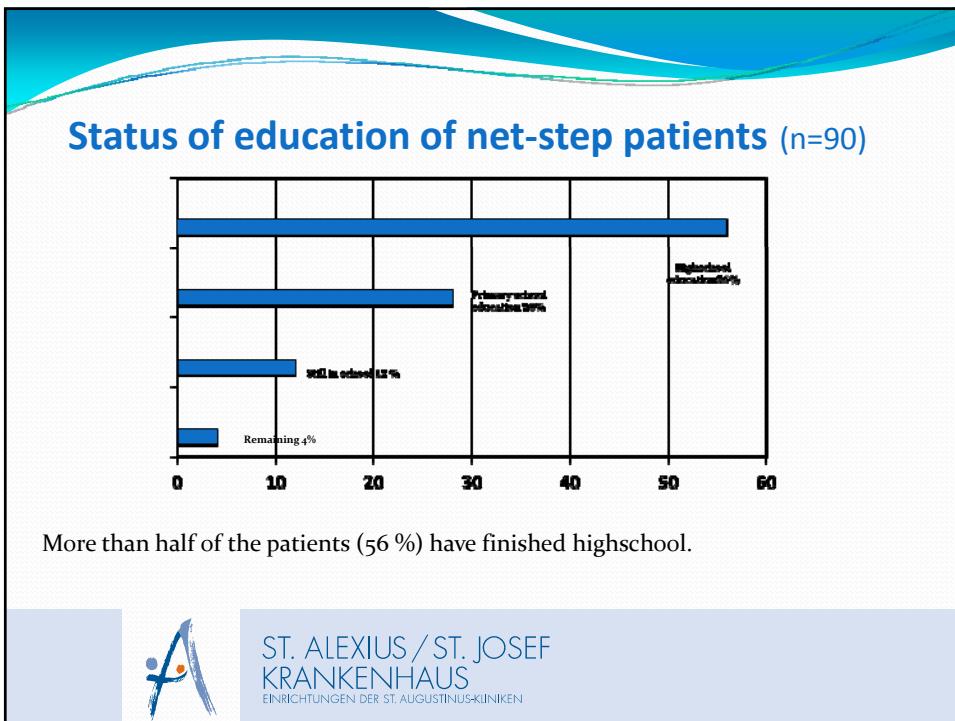
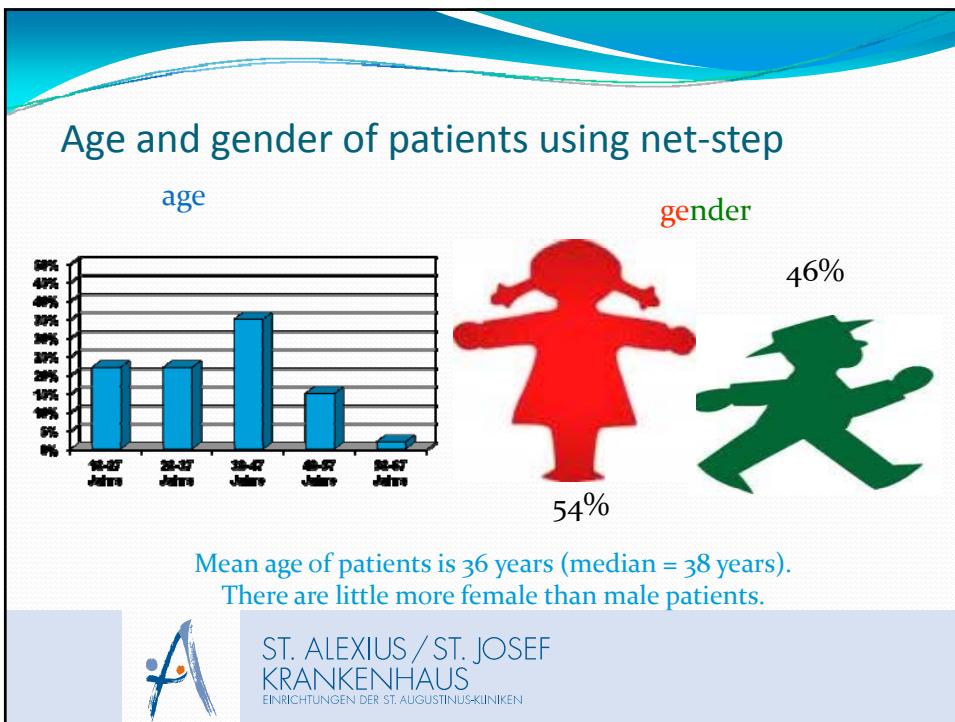


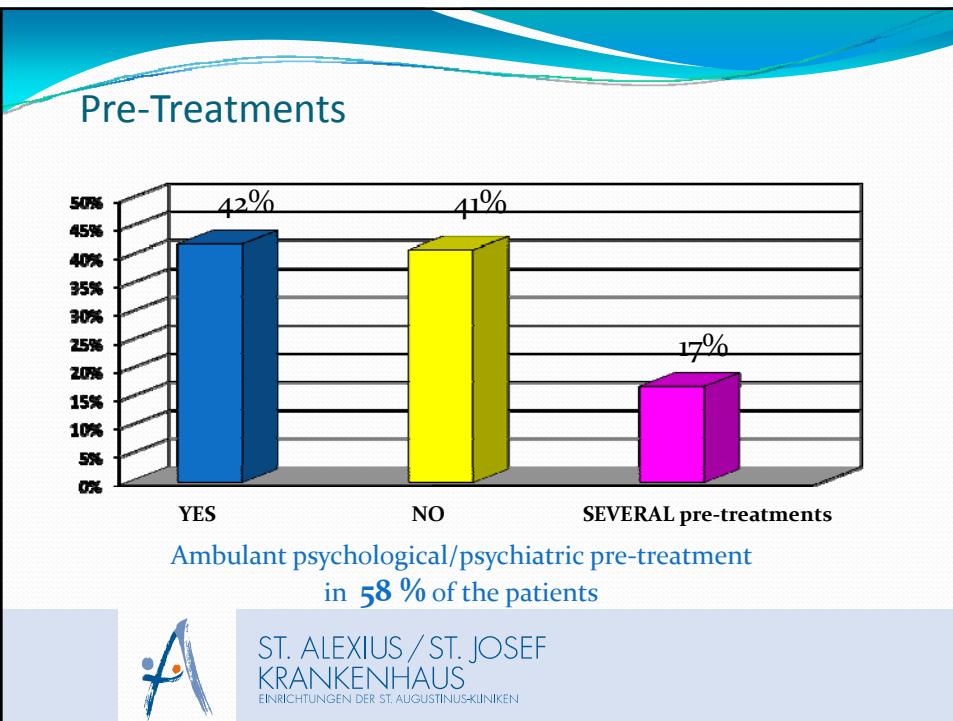
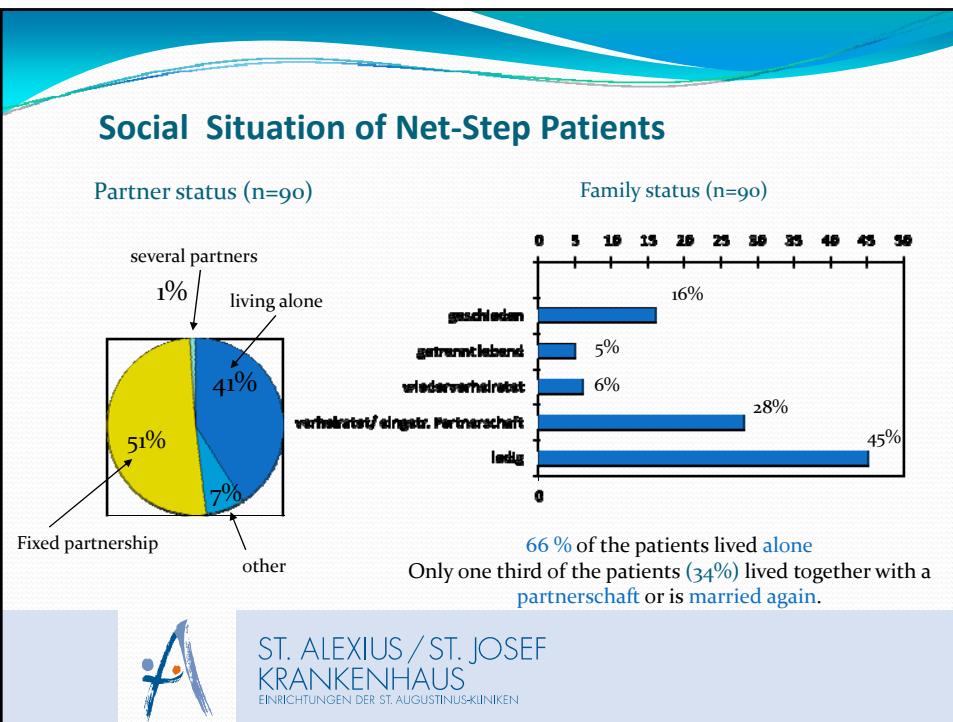
Preliminary results of the pilot study (n=25)

- 72% of the patients suffering from depression recovered during the 12-week period
- No significant difference between IPT und F2F (0.90 vs 0.86)
- Controls did not show a significant reduction of symptoms during a 12-week waiting period.

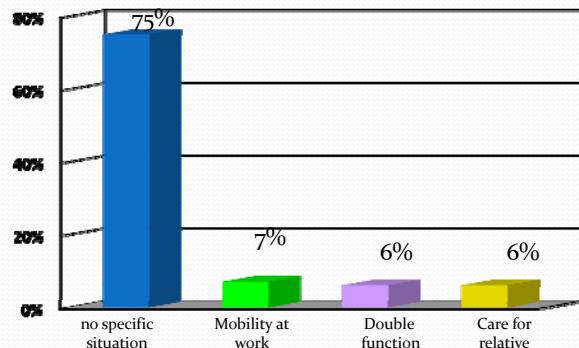


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Specific life-situation of patients using Net-Step (n=90)



Only 19 percent of the patients were in a specific demanding life situation.



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Summary

- Internet psychotherapy (net-step) is a useful method for treatment of depression. Net-step is an attempt to combine advantages of pure IPT with beneficial effects of F2F-therapy.
- In Germany IPT is not yet used as a regular treatment in primary care.



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- The Internet Internet Psychotherapy is thought to be a **COMPLETION** of psychotherapeutic settings , NOT a **REPLACEMENT**.
- „**Net step**“ has to be completely evaluated before it is accepted as regular treatment by german health insurances.



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Internet-psychotherapy – the challenge of the 21st century

- The challenge of psychotherapy in the beginning 21. century is no longer a competition of different psychotherapeutic school systems but it is the success of „unpersonal“ internet psychotherapy.

Peter Fonagy 2003



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