Parent-infant psychotherapy: a systematic review of the evidence for improving parental and infant mental health

Key words: systematic review; parent-infant psychotherapy; attachment

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Abstract

**Background:** Parent-infant psychotherapy (PIP) is a psychodynamic intervention with parent-infant dyads, designed to address regulatory disturbances in infancy and problems in the parent-infant relationship. **Aims:** This systematic review aimed to examine whether PIP is effective in improving the parent-infant relationship or other aspects of parent or infant functioning.

**Methods:** A systematic review was undertaken. Electronic databases were searched for randomised controlled trials in which participants had been allocated to a PIP intervention or control group/other treatment. **Results:** Eight studies were identified that provided data comparing parent-infant psychotherapy with a no-treatment control group (4 studies) or comparing PIP with other kinds of treatment (4 studies). Meta-analyses indicated that parents who received PIP were more likely to have an infant who was rated as being securely attached to the parent after the intervention; however there were no significant differences in studies comparing outcomes of PIP with another model of treatment. **Conclusions:** Although PIP appears to be a promising method of improving infant attachment security, there is inconclusive evidence of its benefits in terms of other outcomes, and no evidence to show that it is more effective than other interventions for parents and infants. Many studies had limitations in their design or implementation, and findings must be interpreted with caution.
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Infant regulatory disturbances such as excessive crying, feeding or sleeping difficulties and bonding/attachment problems represent the main reasons for referral to infant mental health clinics (Keren, Feldman, Tyano 2001), with prevalence of such problems in the general population, for children at eighteen months of age, estimated to be in the region of 18%
Infant regulatory and attachment problems can best be understood in a relational context, and disturbances to the parent-child relationship and parental psychosocial adversity are significant risk factors for infant emotional, behavioural, eating and sleeping disorders (Skovgaard et al 2008; Skovgaard 2010). As well as the well-documented impact of poverty (Duncan and Brooks-Gunn, 2000), substance misuse (Raynes, Dawe and Cuthbert, 2004), and perinatal mental health problems (Hogg, 2012) on the parent-child relationship, recent research has also emphasized the critical nature of the interaction between the parent and infant including for example, parental sensitivity (DeWoolf 1997), the quality of the attunement or contingency...
between parent and infant (Beebe et al 2010), and the parent’s capacity for what has been termed ‘maternal mind-mindedness’ (Meins et al 2001) or ‘reflective function' (Slade et al 2001).

Recent research has also highlighted a number of ‘atypical’ parenting behaviours that can be present during the postnatal period, including affective communication errors (for example, mother positive while infant distressed), disorientation (frightened expression or sudden complete loss of affect) and negative-intrusive behaviours (mocking or pulling infant’s body) (Lyons-Ruth et al 2005). A meta-analysis of 12 studies found a strong association between disorganised attachment at 12 to 18 months and parenting behaviours characterised as ‘anomalous’ (that is, frightening, threatening, looming), dissociative (haunted voice, deferential/timid) or disrupted (failure to repair, lack of response, insensitive/communication error) (Madigan et al 2006). These atypical parenting practices were identified in parents described as ‘unresolved’ with regard to previous trauma (Jacobvitz, Hazen and Riggs 1997; Cicchetti, Rogosch, Toth 2006; Cicchetti et al 2010). However, disturbances to the mother-infant relationship are common and are associated with a range of maternal problems including postnatal depression (Murray et al 1996); Personality Disorder (Crandell, Patrick and Hobson 2003; Newman 2008), psychotic disorders (Chaffin, Kelleher and Hollenberg 1996), substance misuse (Suchman et al 2005; Tronick et al 2005) and domestic violence (Lyons-Ruth et al 2003; Lyons-Ruth et al 2005).

Over the past two decades, a range of interventions (e.g. home visiting and parenting programmes) have been developed to address developmental problems in the infant, and problems in the parent-infant relationship, with a view to promoting optimal infant development. These have mostly targeted the parent and used a range of techniques in their delivery (e.g.
discussion, role play, watching video vignettes and homework) with varying degrees of success in terms of improving parenting behaviours (Barlow et al 2012) and infant outcomes (Olds 1996). However, the relational nature of many infant regulatory problems points to the potential importance of targeting the parent-infant dyad, and a review of such ‘attachment-based’ interventions found them to be effective in reducing insensitive parenting ($d = 0.33$), with some evidence of a small impact on infant attachment insecurity ($d = 0.20$) (Bakermans-Kranenberg, van Ijzendoorn, and Juffer 2003).

Parent-infant psychotherapy (also known as infant-parent psychotherapy – IPP - in the US) is one of the earliest forms of dyadic intervention to be developed (or triadic if two parents are involved) and involves targeting the parent-infant relationship (i.e. it is delivered to both parent and infant together). A parent-infant psychotherapist works by listening and observing the interaction, identifying the concerns and worries, and helping the parent observe and find different ways to relate to their baby. Parent-infant psychotherapy focuses on improving the parent-infant relationship and infant attachment security by targeting parental internal working models (Main, Kaplan and Cassidy 1985), and by working directly with the parent-infant relationship in the room. The approach is essentially psychodynamic in that it involves identifying patterns of parent-infant relating, which are often rooted in the legacy of the parent's own early experiences with caregivers, especially when such experiences have been traumatic.

The earliest approach, developed by Selma Fraiberg (1975; 1980) focused primarily on the mother’s ‘representational’ world (‘representation-focused’ approach) or the way in which the mother’s current view of her infant was affected by interfering representations from her own history. The aim of such therapy was to help the mother to recognise the ‘ghosts in the nursery’
(that is, the unremembered influences from her own past) and to link them to her current functioning, in order to directly improve the parent-infant relationship, thereby facilitating new paths for growth and development for both mother and infant (Cramner and Stern 1988). Fraiberg emphasised that the model is flexible, and may include developmental guidance, insight-oriented interpretation, emotional support, and concrete assistance with problems of living, depending on the presenting clinical problems and the parent's mental health and level of family and social support.

Fraiberg’s model has been further developed and evaluated by others (for example, Lieberman et al 1991; Toth et al 2006), and more recently, representational and behavioural approaches have been combined (Cohen et al 1999). For example, ‘Watch, Wait and Wonder’ (WWW) is an ‘infant-led’ PIP that involves the mother spending time observing her infant’s self initiated activity, accepting the infant’s spontaneous and undirected behaviour, and being physically accessible to the infant (behavioural component). The mother then discusses her experiences of the infant-led play with the therapist with a view to examining the mother’s internal working models of herself in relation to her infant (representational component) (Cohen 1999a). PIP may also work with the father or other primary carer, or with two parents together.

The duration of the intervention depends on the presenting problems but typically ranges from five to 20 weeks, usually involving weekly sessions. Parents may be referred to this service by a clinician (e.g. general practitioner or health visitor in the UK) or may self-refer to privately run services. PIP services typically target infants less than two years of age at the time of referral. This reflects the importance of the first two years of life in terms of children’s later development.
There is a growing body of evidence pointing to the role that parent-infant psychotherapy can play in terms of improving both parental functioning (Cohen et al 1999; Cohen et al 2002) and fostering secure attachment relationships in young children (Toth et al 2006), and there is some evidence to suggest that different forms of the therapy may be differentially effective for parents with different types of attachment insecurity (Bakermans-Kranenburg, Juffer, van Ijzendoorn 1998). However, there has to date been only one ‘thematic’ summary of the evidence about the effectiveness of parent-infant psychotherapy (Sleed and Bland 2007), which did not involve a systematic search for evidence. Three other systematic reviews (Singleton 2004; Bakermans-Kranenburg 2003; Poobalan et al., 2007) suggested promising results, but all included studies had high levels of heterogeneity, both in terms of the nature of the intervention/s being tested and in the design of the evaluations. This paper provides a summary of the key findings of a Cochrane systematic review (Barlow et al., 2015) of randomised studies to identify whether this unique method of working has benefits for parents and infants, and whether the outcome is affected by the duration or content of the intervention.

Method

Study design

We conducted a systematic review of both published and unpublished literature using a range of electronic databases.

Electronic searches
The databases Central, Medline, Embase, Cinahl, PsychINFO, BIOSIS Citation Index, SSCI (Web of Science), ERIC and Sociological Abstracts (which includes dissertations) were searched up to 13 January 2014. No language or date restrictions were used and RCT filters were applied where appropriate. We searched mRCT on 20 January 2014 to identify any registered clinical trials in the UK and internationally and reference lists of articles identified through database searches and bibliographies of systematic and non-systematic review articles to identify relevant studies. We also contacted authors and experts in the field to identify unpublished studies.

**Inclusion/exclusion criteria**

We included randomised controlled trials (RCTs) and quasi-randomised controlled trials that compared a parent-infant psychotherapy (PIP) with a control condition (i.e. waiting-list, no treatment or treatment-as-usual) or a second treatment group. PIP was defined in terms of an intervention underpinned by a psychodynamic model and delivered jointly to the parent-infant dyad. Studies were only included with a clinical sample, i.e. in which either the parent was experiencing mental health problems or the infant was showing signs of attachment and/or dysregulation problems. We only included studies that used a standardized measure to assess parental mental health; parental sensitivity; or infant attachment security.

**Selection of studies, data extraction and risk of bias assessment**

Titles and abstracts of studies identified through searches of electronic databases were screened by two authors (CB and JB) to assess whether they met the inclusion criteria. Full copies of papers that appeared to meet the inclusion criteria were then independently assessed
and any uncertainties were resolved by discussion with the third author (NM). Two review authors extracted data independently (CB and SL) using a data extraction form and entered the data into Review Manager 2012 5 software (version 5.2.7). Where data were not available in the published trial reports, study investigators were contacted to supply missing information. A risk-of-bias assessment was carried out using the Cochrane 'Risk of bias' assessment tool (Higgins 2011).

**Statistical analysis**

Meta-analysis was undertaken where there was sufficient clinical homogeneity in the intervention delivered, the characteristics of the study participants (such as age or the definition of 'at risk' participants), and the outcome measures. Data were combined using a random-effects model. We calculated overall effects using inverse variance methods. All analyses included all participants in the treatment groups to which they were allocated, whenever possible.

For dichotomous endpoint measures, we present the number of parents or infants who showed an improvement as a proportion of the total number of parents/infants treated. Risk ratios were calculated (RR) by dividing the risk in one group with the risk in the other group, and these are presented with 95% confidence intervals and standard deviations. Standardised mean differences (SMDs) and 95% confidence intervals are presented for continuous data, and risk ratios for dichotomous data. For studies where there was more than one active intervention and only one control group, we selected the intervention that most closely matched our inclusion criteria and either excluded (in the case of one alternative treatment) or combined the others (see Higgins 2011, Chapter 16.5.4).
Results

Study selection

Electronic searches in February 2013 and updated in January 2014 identified 2604 records. We identified 16 additional records through other sources. Fifty-eight did not meet the inclusion criteria and we excluded them. Of these, eight were RCTs but did not fit our inclusion criteria. Twenty-one were not RCTs but otherwise met at least one of our inclusion criteria. Twenty-five studies did not assess the effectiveness of PIP. In three RCTs of PIP, the age of the children was outside the maximum age specified in the inclusion criteria for this review. We included eight studies (from 19 reports of trials) and identified five ongoing studies.

[FIGURE ONE ABOUT HERE: STUDY FLOW CHART]

A total of 8 studies were included, comprising 846 randomised participants. The parent populations were diverse, including mothers experiencing depression, previously confirmed maltreatment that had occurred in the family, maternal depression and feelings of failure in bonding or attachment. Some were immigrants who faced a high incidence of depression and anxiety as a result of poverty, unemployment, and cultural uprootedness, or who reported problems with managing infant sleep, feeding, and behavioural disorders. In one study participants were infants incarcerated with their mothers in prisons within mother and baby units, where the prison environment and subsequent separation may have had adverse consequences for the mother-infant relationship. The infants in all studies were showing or considered to be at risk of developing adverse attachment or dysregulation problems. In all eight studies, the mean age of
the infant participants was under 24 months at study enrolment, with a range from 8 weeks to 30 months. The studies were conducted in a number of settings, and ranged in duration from 8 sessions to 49 weeks.

Of the 8 studies, four involved comparisons of PIP with control groups only (Cicchetti, Toth, Rogosch 1999; Lieberman 1991; Salomonsson and Sandell 2011; Sleed, Baradon and Fonagy 2013). Of the four studies that compared parent-infant psychotherapy with another treatment, one compared a representative parent-infant psychotherapy (PPT) with an 'infant-led' parent-infant psychotherapy called 'Watch and Wait and Wonder' (WWW) (Cohen et al 1999); one compared parent-infant psychotherapy with interaction guidance (Robert-Tissot et al 1996); one comprised three arms permitting a comparison of PIP with both a no-treatment community control group and a psycho-educational parent training programme (Cicchetti, Rogosch, Toth 2006); and a fourth study employed a randomised four-arm comparison of parent-infant psychotherapy, cognitive behavioural therapy (CBT), non-directive counselling, and routine primary care (Cooper et al 2003), in which for the purposes of this review we aggregated data from the counselling and CBT arms (non-psychodynamic interventions). Further details of the characteristics of the studies included in the meta-analysis, including the outcome measures used in each of them, are shown in table 1.

[TABLE ONE ABOUT HERE: CHARACTERISTICS OF STUDIES]

Risk of bias in included studies
Our risk of bias estimates show that overall the quality of the included studies was poor. Many studies had limitations in their design or implementation, or were unclear about important quality criteria including randomisation and allocation concealment, sequence generation, and blinding. Although study authors were contacted for more information, these domains remain unclear. It should be noted that all of the studies were judged at high risk of performance bias because it is not possible to blind participants and personnel in studies of this nature. It should be noted, however, that despite this it may still be possible to blind outcome assessors, and so there could still be a low risk of detection bias. A summary of risk of bias across all studies can be found in Figure 2, which presents the judgements for each study.

[FIGURE TWO ABOUT HERE: RISK OF BIAS SUMMARY FOR THE INCLUDED STUDIES]

**Effects of interventions**

*PIP versus control group*

Six studies contributed data to the PIP versus control comparisons (Cicchetti, Toth, Rogoshch 1999; Cooper et al 2003; Lieberman et al 1999; Salomonsson and Sandell 2011; Sleed, Baradon and Fonagy 2013) producing 19 meta-analyses of outcomes measured at post-intervention or follow-up, or both, for the primary outcomes.

The results showed significant improvements in the proportion of children securely attached at post-intervention (RR 8.93; 95% CI 1.25 to 63.70; P=0.03), but significant levels of
heterogeneity were identified (Chi²=3.71; df=1; P=0.054; τ² = 3.71; I²=73%) (see Figure 3).

There was a reduction in children with an avoidant attachment at post-intervention (RR 0.48; 95% CI 0.24 to 0.95); and significantly fewer infants with disorganised attachment at post-intervention (RR 0.32; 95% CI 0.17 to 0.58). However, there were no statistically significant differences at post-intervention for the resistant category (RR 0.69; 95% CI 0.16 to 2.97). There was an increase in the proportion of children moving from insecure at pre-intervention to secure attachment at post-intervention (RR 11.45; 95% CI 3.11 to 42.08; P=0.0002) favouring PIP.

Two studies reported attachment category at 1 and 5 year follow-up (n=129) (Cooper 2003; Cicchetti 2006), and showed a statistically significant difference favouring the intervention group for the number of infants securely attached (RR 3.3 95%CI CI 1.82 to 6.0, P= <0.000 ); and significantly more control children were avoidant (RR 0.33 95%CI CI 0.15 to 0.76; P=0.000). There were, however, no differences between the groups in the proportions of children classified as resistant (RR 0.57 95%CI CI 0.11 to 3.07) or disorganised (RR 0.80 95%CI 0.8 CI 0.29 to 2.19).

Two studies reported whether participants had changed attachment category by the end of the intervention (i.e. immediately post-intervention). Significantly more intervention group infants had moved from insecure at pre-intervention to secure at post-intervention (RR 11.45; 95% CI 3.11 to 42.08; P=0.0002). Moderate levels of heterogeneity were identified (Chi²=1.61; df=1; P=0.205; I²=38%). More infants who were secure at pre-intervention and remained secure at post-intervention (stably secure) were in the PIP groups, but this was not statistically significant (RR 2.28, 95% CI 0.41 to 12.56).
There was no statistically significant difference between the number of participants whose attachment category changed from *secure at pre-intervention to insecure at post-intervention* (RR 0.09 CI 0.01 to 1.56). Although more children in the control group were insecure at pre- and post-intervention (stably insecure), there was no significant difference in children who were *stably insecure* (RR 0.56; 95% CI 0.26 to 1.22).

There was also no statistically significant difference between parent-infant psychotherapy and control groups for data from all four studies measuring maternal sensitivity post-intervention (SMD -0.13; 95% CI -0.64 to 0.38); or for child involvement using data from two studies (SMD Random -0.01; 95% CI -0.32 to 0.30); or for data from three studies measuring maternal positive engagement at post-intervention (SMD Random -0.16; 95% CI -0.46 to 0.15). None of the above results were altered following adjustment for clustering. There was no evidence of an impact on child behavior based on data from two studies (SMD 0.22; 95% CI -0.34 to 0.77); or infant cognitive development (SMD -0.15, 95% CI -0.82 to 0.51).

Four studies reported a continuous measure of maternal depression at post-intervention (n=356) and showed no difference between parent-infant psychotherapy and control groups (SMD -0.22; 95% CI -0.46 to 0.02; three of these studies reported the number of subsequent episodes of depression post-intervention, also found no differences between intervention and control groups (RR 0.74, 95% CI 0.52 to 1.04).

*PIP versus alternative treatment*
Four studies contributed data to the PIP versus alternative treatment analyses (Cohen et al 1999; Robert-Tissot et al 1996; Cicchetti et al 2006; Sleed, Baradon and Fonagy 2013) producing 15 meta-analyses measuring parent mental health (depression); parent-infant interaction (maternal sensitivity); infant attachment category (secure, avoidant, resistant, disorganised) and attachment change (insecure to secure; stable insecure). Meta analysis was not possible for infants who were stable secure; or changed from secure to insecure because no events occurred in the PIP group. None of the meta-analyses of PIP versus alternative treatment at post-intervention, or follow-up showed significant differences in outcome between PIP and alternative treatment interventions.

**Discussion**

The results of this review suggest that PIP may be a promising model in terms of improving infant attachment security in high-risk populations including maltreating parents and prisoners, but that there is currently limited evidence of benefit across many other outcomes measured including maternal representations and parent-infant interaction. These findings need to be interpreted with caution, however, given the small number of studies identified, and their heterogeneity in terms of both the referral problem and the target populations. Moreover, the small number of included studies precluded the possibility of examining whether there were any moderating factors that might have affected the strength of the results. In addition, a number of the studies were lacking in rigour, and there was significant statistical heterogeneity affecting some of the key outcomes. The null findings for most of the outcomes synthesized in this review provide no evidence of an effect (rather than evidence of no effect) and may be due to low
statistical power given the small number of included studies and the imprecision in the random-effects variance component.

With regard to the effectiveness of PIP relative to other methods of working the evidence is again inconclusive, partly as a result of the diverse interventions with which PIP was compared, and the fact that data regarding the cost of implementing parent-infant psychotherapy or its cost-effectiveness relative to other methods of intervening was not provided in any of the included studies. Despite the evidence suggesting that PIP has a role in improving infant attachment, it is noticeable that there was no difference in attachment outcomes between the PIP and alternative treatments, and the reasons for this are unclear. Some of the non-psychodynamic interventions are also relationship-based and this may be sufficient to promote parental sensitivity and secure infant attachment.

Comparison of these findings with the three earlier reviews is difficult because they included highly heterogenous populations (e.g. low birth-weight babies; low income families; infants with cerebral palsy) (Singleton 2004) and interventions (i.e. targeting both parents alone and parent-infant dyads (Singleton 2004; Poobalan 2007; Bakermans-Kranenberg 2003) (e.g. infant massage, home visiting and parent-infant psychotherapy) that were evaluated using mixed designs (including non-RCTs (Singleton 2004; Poobalan 2007). However, Bakermans-Kranenberg (2003) review of 70 attachment interventions including parent-infant psychotherapy, video-interaction guidance, social support, included a meta-regression, which showed that the most effective interventions used a moderate number of sessions and a clear-cut behavioral focus in families with, as well as without, multiple problems. Interventions that were more effective in
enhancing parental sensitivity were also more effective in enhancing attachment security, which supports the notion of a causal role of sensitivity in shaping attachment. This review included studies of both PIP and Interaction Guidance, the latter of which appears to be an effective model of intervening (NICE 2012). There is, however, currently insufficient evidence about the relative benefits of these two approaches either clinically (Robert-Tissot et al 1996), or in terms of their cost-effectiveness (no cost-effectiveness data was provided in any of the included studies), and it is possible that both have a role in terms of supporting different groups of parents (Bakermans-Kranenberg 1998). In the UK many organisations providing parent-infant psychotherapy have also incorporated video-based interaction guidance techniques into routine practice (e.g. Anna Freud Centre and OXPIP).

Potential biases in the review process were limited. We estimated the SMD by calculating the treatment effect for each outcome in each study by dividing the MD in post-intervention scores for the intervention and treatment groups by the pooled standard deviation. However, it should be noted that random allocation does not guarantee quality of means between groups at pre-test, and also that post-test standard deviation may be inflated by a differential response to intervention, and may underestimate the effect size attributable to the intervention.

In addition, we did not take into account the possibility of ICC that can occur in group interventions. Although we corrected for unit analysis issues arising from cluster-randomisation, we did not investigate further the clustering effect of individually randomised trials with group delivered therapies. This could mean that we have overestimated the significance of the findings.
We contacted the study investigators to provide missing data, but where this was not provided, we did not impute missing data. In addition, we had planned to carry out additional subgroup analyses to explore the programme components that appeared to be associated with more effective outcomes, and factors that modified intervention effectiveness, but there were too few included studies in each meta-analysis to do this. There were similarly too few studies to conduct sensitivity analyses to examine the impact of study design or quality.

The high prevalence of infant regulatory problems in addition to the poor long-term trajectory, particularly in the case of infants who have a disorganised attachment, suggests the need for practitioners who can work effectively with high-risk dyads during this crucial period of child development. Indeed, the delivery of services to children during the first two years of life could be effective in reducing some of the later demand for specialist child and adolescent mental health services, and although the findings of this review are currently inconclusive in terms of the effectiveness of parent-infant psychotherapy per se, or indeed relative to other methods of working, they nevertheless support the increasing body of evidence which suggests that brief, dyadic, attachment-based techniques of this sort can bring about improvement in children’s attachment in high risk dyads with significant potential long-term benefits for the child.

References


Interview are associated with disrupted mother-infant communication and infant disorganization. *Development and Psychopathology, 17*(1), 1-23.


Figure 1. Study flow diagram (PRISMA)
Figure 2. Risk of bias summary for the included studies.
The risk of bias summary below highlights each domain (columns) within each of the studies (rows).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Study</th>
<th>Random sequence generation (selection bias)</th>
<th>Allocation concealment (selection bias)</th>
<th>Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias)</th>
<th>Selective reporting (reporting bias)</th>
<th>Blinding of participants and personnel (performance bias)</th>
<th>Blinding of outcome assessment (detection bias)</th>
<th>Other bias</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cicchetti 1999</td>
<td>?</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>?</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cicchetti 2006</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>?</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cohen 1999</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>?</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cooper 2003</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>?</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lieberman 1991</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salomonsson 2011</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sleed 2013</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Figure 3. Forest plot of Comparison 1: parent-infant psychotherapy intervention versus control meta-analyses, outcome: Infant attachment categories meta analysis: post-intervention.
Figure 4. Forest plot of Comparison 1: parent-infant psychotherapy intervention versus control meta-analyses, outcome: 1.8 Infant attachment change meta-analysis.

### 1.8.1 Attachment change insecure to secure: pre to post intervention

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Study or Subgroup</th>
<th>PIP Events</th>
<th>Total Events</th>
<th>Risk Ratio M-H, Random, 95% CI</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cicchetti 1993</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>7.34 [2.76, 19.54]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cicchetti 2008</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>3.86 [0.20, 226.65]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subtotal (95% CI)</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>108</td>
<td>11.45 [3.11, 42.08]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total events: 33
Heterogeneity: $\tau^2 = 0.39$, $\chi^2 = 1.61$, df = 1 ($P = 0.21$); $I^2 = 38$
Test for overall effect: $Z = 3.87$ ($P = 0.0002$)

### 1.8.2 Attachment change stable secure: pre to post intervention

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Study or Subgroup</th>
<th>PIP Events</th>
<th>Total Events</th>
<th>Risk Ratio M-H, Random, 95% CI</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cicchetti 1993</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>1.41 [0.46, 4.32]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cicchetti 2008</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>1.10 [0.47, 256.51]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subtotal (95% CI)</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>108</td>
<td>2.28 [0.41, 12.56]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total events: 7
Heterogeneity: $\tau^2 = 0.65$, $\chi^2 = 1.46$, df = 1 ($P = 0.23$); $I^2 = 31$
Test for overall effect: $Z = 0.94$ ($P = 0.34$)

### 1.8.3 Attachment change insecure to insecure: pre to post intervention

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Study or Subgroup</th>
<th>PIP Events</th>
<th>Total Events</th>
<th>Not estimable</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cicchetti 2008</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>14</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subtotal (95% CI)</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>108</td>
<td>0.69 [0.01, 15.6]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total events: 0
Heterogeneity: Not applicable
Test for overall effect: $Z = 1.56$ ($P = 0.12$)

### 1.8.4 Attachment change stable insecure: pre to post intervention

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Study or Subgroup</th>
<th>PIP Events</th>
<th>Total Events</th>
<th>Risk Ratio M-H, Random, 95% CI</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cicchetti 1993</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>0.36 [0.18, 0.74]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cicchetti 2008</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>0.40 [0.24, 1.15]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subtotal (95% CI)</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>108</td>
<td>0.55 [0.26, 1.22]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total events: 20
Heterogeneity: $\tau^2 = 0.22$, $\chi^2 = 3.15$, df = 1 ($P = 0.08$); $I^2 = 68$
Test for overall effect: $Z = 1.47$ ($P = 0.14$)

Test for subgroup difference: $\chi^2 = 18.96$, df = 3 ($P = 0.0003$); $I^2 = 84.2%$