



Review Article

A Systematic Review of the Effects of Therapeutic Exercise With Psychological Interventions on Disability and Personal Outcomes in Older Adults



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KEYWORDS

Aged;
International Classification of Functioning, Disability, and Health;

Abstract Objective: To evaluate the effects of therapeutic exercise and psychological interventions on disability and personal outcomes in older adults.

Data Sources: Articles published from January 2013 to February 2025 are available in PubMed, Embase, ProQuest Health & Medical and Psychology, PsycINFO, and PsycArticles.

List of abbreviations: ACT, acceptance and commitment therapy; CBT, cognitive-behavioral therapy; CR, cardiac rehabilitation; ICF, International Classification of Functioning, Disability, and Health; MI, motivational interviewing; PA, physical activity; PR, pulmonary rehabilitation; PT, physical therapy; RoB, risk of bias.

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Rehabilitation; Review

Study Selection: Inclusion criteria were as follows: (1) intervention included therapeutic exercise combined or integrated with a psychological intervention; (2) randomized controlled trial; (3) sample mean age ≥ 60 years; (4) primary or secondary outcome(s) of disability. Two authors independently screened trials ($n=7391$) for inclusion; a third author verified results and resolved discrepancies.

Data Extraction: Data were extracted by a primary reviewer and verified by a second reviewer. The risk of bias assessment was performed using the risk of bias in randomized controlled trials.

Data Synthesis: Thirty-eight trials ($n=18,550$ participants) were included. Therapeutic exercise included: exercise programs (34%), physical activity counseling and monitoring (37%), rehabilitation (18%), or other (eg, Tai Chi; 13%). Psychological interventions were primarily motivational interviewing (53%) or cognitive-behavioral therapy/strategies (39%). Significant improvement in body functions and structures ($n=14$, 37%), activity ($n=6$, 16%), participation ($n=20$, 53%), and personal factors ($n=11$, 29%) was observed.

Conclusions: Therapeutic exercise with psychological interventions have a positive effect on disability and personal outcomes, especially in participation. Heterogeneity in the study design, intervention, and population challenged data synthesis. Nonetheless, the current review identified gaps within the literature and directions for future research. Testing the additive effect of these interventions compared to active comparators is a priority for future investigations.

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By 2050, an estimated 120.4 million adults 60 years of age and older will have at least one chronic disease in the United States alone.¹ The burden of chronic disease increases with age, with 23% of the total global burden of disease attributed to chronic disease in older adults aged 60 years and older.² The World Health Organization's International Classification of Functioning, Disability, and Health (ICF), issued in 2002, provides a framework to understand the interaction between health conditions and contextual factors (ie, environmental and personal) within the individual.³ According to the ICF framework, functioning within an individual can occur at multiple levels, including body functions and structures, activity, and participation.^{3,4} Disability denotes a decrease or reduction in any of the 3 levels of functioning (ie, impairments, limitations, restrictions).^{3,4} Personal factors are individual characteristics (eg, depression) that can influence an individual's experience of disability.³ At an individual level, the presence of chronic disease increases the risk of disability, resulting in adverse health outcomes, including hospitalization, institutionalization, and mortality.^{3,5,6} To improve the health and functioning of older adults, disrupting the chronological age-chronic disease association is necessary.¹

Therapeutic exercises such as exercise programs, physical activity (PA) counseling and monitoring, physical therapy (PT), and rehabilitation are largely efficacious for improving health, as well as disability outcomes in adults of all ages.⁷⁻¹⁰ Despite the well-established health benefits of therapeutic exercise, 91% of older adults do not meet the recommended levels of exercise or PA.^{11,12} Moreover, adherence to therapeutic exercise is low, and long-term behavior change is challenging.¹¹⁻¹³ Therapeutic exercise interventions that combine or integrate psychological interventions such as cognitive-behavioral therapy (CBT) and motivational interviewing (MI) may optimize outcomes by addressing personal factors related to engagement, adherence, and long-term maintenance of behavior change.¹¹

CBT is an evidence-based psychological intervention for a range of psychological disorders across the lifespan.^{14,15} Given the evidence base for CBT, pairing CBT with therapeutic exercise may address multiple outcomes within the ICF framework, particularly in populations with co-occurring chronic disease and emotional distress. MI, unlike CBT, was developed specifically as either a stand-alone intervention or an adjunct to other interventions.¹⁶ Early MI research focused on its use to increase readiness for substance use treatment.¹⁶ MI is a dialog-based, patient-centered intervention that meets individuals where they are at in the behavior change process with the goal of increasing readiness for change.¹⁶ In recent years, third-wave therapies such as acceptance and commitment therapy (ACT) have grown in popularity and empirical support.¹⁷ ACT and other mindfulness-based interventions provide education and skills training on mindfulness, acceptance, and psychological flexibility.

Combined or integrated interventions may be best suited for certain ICF domain outcomes. For example, biologic processes more strongly underlie body functions and structures, whereas psychosocial processes exert more influence on activity and participation.¹⁸ However, to our knowledge, no systematic reviews have been conducted to examine the effects of these interventions on disability and personal outcomes in older adults. Therefore, the purpose of this systematic review was to synthesize and evaluate trials examining the effects of therapeutic exercise with psychological interventions on disability outcomes and personal factors in older adults.

Methods

The protocol of this systematic review complies with the Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and

Meta-Analyses guidelines.¹⁹ The review was registered with Open Science Framework on October 24, 2022.

Search strategy

A systematic search was conducted with the assistance of a chief librarian from January 1, 2013 to February 5, 2025 with the following databases: PubMed, Embase, ProQuest Health & Medical and Psychology, PsycINFO, and PsycArticles. The final search strategy and results are provided in [supplemental table S1](#).

Inclusion criteria

Trials were included if they met the following criteria: (1) the experimental intervention included a therapeutic exercise combined or integrated with a psychological intervention; (2) a formal randomized controlled trial, not defined as a “feasibility” or “pilot” study; (3) the sample was composed of adults with a mean age ≥ 60 years; (4) disability outcomes were assessed as either primary or secondary outcomes. Disability outcomes were defined by the ICF framework and categorized into their relevant domains (eg, body functions and structures; see Data Synthesis for further details). Although results related to personal factors were synthesized, they were not inclusion criteria. Trials were excluded if they met the following criteria: (1) a literature, systematic, or scoping review, meta-analysis, study protocol, dissertation, poster, platform, or abstract; (2) not written in English, without available full-text in English; (3) participants were diagnosed with dementia and/or major neurocognitive disorder; (4) trial setting was an institutional setting (eg, nursing home). Systematic and scoping reviews were compiled and data mined for referenced articles meeting inclusion criteria. In order to balance thoroughness with feasibility, the literature search was restricted to a 12-year look-back focusing on recent developments in the field.

Selection of trials

Database search results were uploaded into EndNote,^a and then Covidence^b duplicates were removed at each step prior to screening for eligibility. The resulting titles/abstracts were compiled and independently reviewed by 2 authors (G.A.R. and P.T.B.). Those eligible for inclusion were double-reviewed by an additional author (P.M.B.) to provide certainty and confidence in the results. For titles/abstracts that were of unclear eligibility, full-text reviews were conducted to determine inclusion. Full texts were compiled and independently reviewed by 2 authors for eligibility. Disagreements regarding the inclusion of articles were discussed among co-authors until a consensus was reached.

Following the review of full-text articles, a consensus was reached among authors to make a distinction between psychological interventions and the use of behavior change techniques not within a specific psychological intervention (eg, goal setting, problem-solving). Psychological interventions may contain behavior change techniques within them in order to address both behavioral and psychological outcomes, but stand-alone behavior change techniques do not fully constitute a psychological intervention.^{20,21} Because

the focus of this review was on trials testing therapeutic exercise combined or integrated with psychological interventions, trials that only included single or multiple behavior change techniques not within a psychological intervention were excluded.

Data extraction and quality assessment

Data were independently extracted by the first author (G.A.R.) using a customized data extraction form. The extracted data were reviewed by accuracy by all other authors. Effect sizes were extracted when available. Extracted data were compiled and can be found in [supplemental tables S2 and S3](#).

The risk of bias (RoB) was assessed using Cochrane revised tool for assessing RoB in randomized controlled trials.²² Two authors (G.A.R. and P.T.B.) independently assessed RoB; an additional author (P.M.B.) was brought in for any discrepancies in assessments.

Data synthesis

Following the World Health Organization guidance, outcomes were organized by ICF domain through interdisciplinary discussion (ie, psychology, PT, health science) and consensus among authors (G.A.R., P.T.B., P.M.B., and M.W.). Data were then summarized based on the ICF framework and by the type of comparator (ie, active comparator or control). Narrative synthesis is provided later.

Results

Study selection

Database searches identified 7391 unique records for screening after the removal of duplicates. After a review of titles/abstracts, 7188 records were excluded because they did not meet inclusion criteria. The full-text review was performed on 203 articles and 38 trials²³⁻⁶⁰ met the inclusion criteria. The Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses flow diagram is displayed in [figure 1](#).

Risk of bias

Results of the RoB assessment are presented in [figure 2](#). A total of 28 trials^{24-31,33-37,40-43,47-49,53-60} had low RoB, 9 trials^{23,32,38,44-46,50-53} had some concerns of bias, and 1 trial³⁹ had a high RoB.

Study characteristics

Sample sizes varied from 43⁵² to 10,815³⁸ participants (median of 177 participants per study). Study participants' mean age was 69.99 ± 6.66 years and the majority were women (55.57%). Persons with chronic disease constituted the sample of 44.74% of trials.^{23,26,31-33,35,36,39-41,44,46,47,53,57-59} Trials were conducted in Europe (44.74%), Asia (26.32%), North America (21.05%), and Australia (7.89%). Sample characteristics are presented in [supplemental table S3](#).

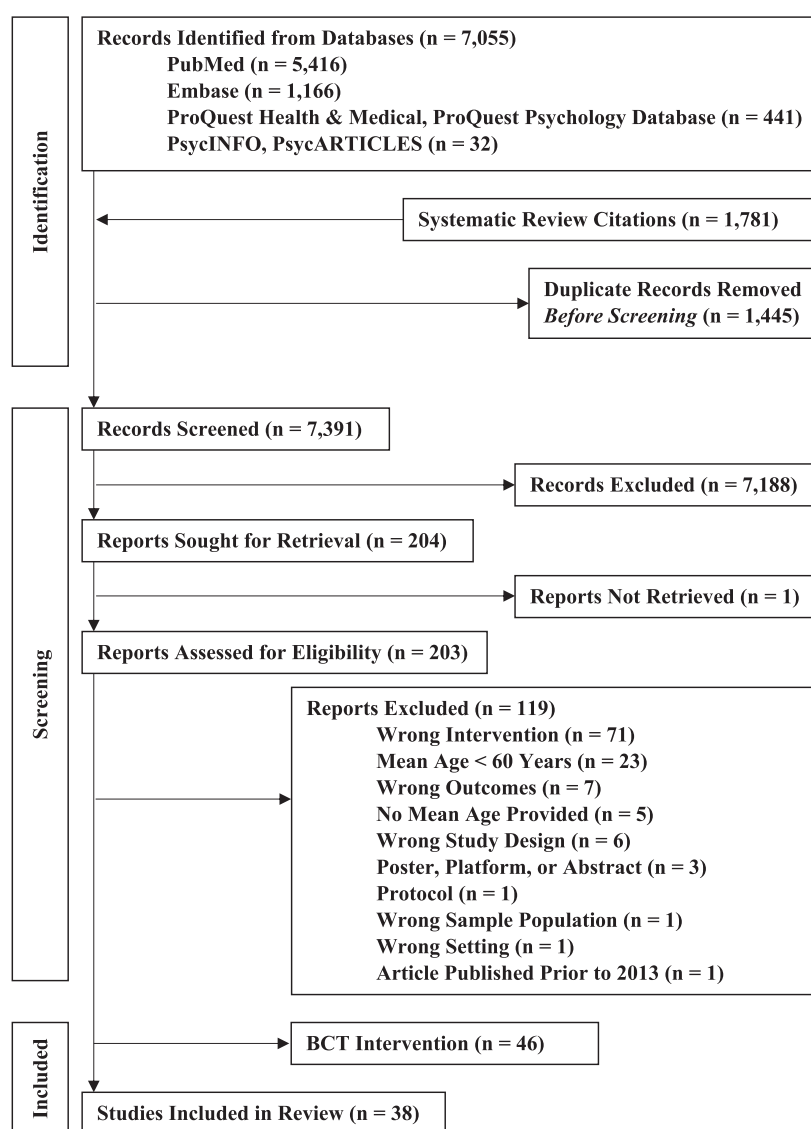


Fig 1 Systematic review methodology and results (PRISMA flowchart). PRISMA flow diagram illustrating the search methodology and results of this systematic review. Abbreviation: PRISMA, Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses.

Dropout rates and adverse events

The average dropout rate was 14.94% (range, 0%^{33,57}-47.89%³⁸). Dropout or attrition was primarily due to the inability to contact participants (85.91%), participant withdrawal (4.19%), reasons not provided (4.14%), and other reasons (eg, health concerns). Four trials reported study-related adverse events, including fatigue,²⁶ pain,^{26,49,55,57,60} dyspnea,^{26,36} new orthopedic symptoms,³⁶ falls,^{26,60} and irritation from activity monitor.⁴⁷

Intervention characteristics

As displayed in [table 1](#), therapeutic exercise interventions included exercise programs (eg, brisk walking, aerobic, functional and high intensity exercises, stretch, and

strength, resistance, and balance training; 31.58%),^{24,28,29,34,35,40,42,44,49,50,52,53} PA counseling and monitoring (ie, PA plans and goals with an activity monitor; 31.58%),^{25-27,30,32,37,38,41,43,46,48,57} exercise programs with PA monitoring (2.63%),²³ rehabilitation programs (21.05%),^{31,33,39,47,54,56,58,59} walking programs (7.89%),^{36,55,60} Baduanjin (2.63%),⁴⁵ and Tai Chi (2.63%).⁵¹ Psychological interventions included MI (47.37%),^{23,25,26,28-30,33,36,38,41,46,47,48,52,56-58,60} CBT (34.21%),^{24,27,31,35,37,39,40,44,45,49,51,53,54} MI and CBT (5.26%),^{32,42} mindfulness meditation (5.26%),^{50,55} problem-solving therapy (PST; 2.63%),³⁴ and ACT (5.26%).^{43,59}

Therapeutic exercise and psychological interventions were categorized as either *combined* or *integrated* interventions ([supplemental table S2](#)). Interventions were classified as *combined* when the therapeutic exercise and psychological intervention were distinguishable from each other,

A. Summary of Individual Trials

Reference	Risk of Bias Domains					
	D1	D2	D3	D4	D5	Overall
Allen KD et al. 2017 ²⁴						
Anderson AS et al. 2014 ²⁵						
Arbillaga-Etxarri A et al. 2018 ²⁶						
Archer KR et al. 2020 ^{27*}						
Arkkukangas M et al. 2019 ^{28*}						
Barberan-Garcia et al. 2018 ²⁹						
Blackford K et al. 2016 ³⁰						
Blumenthal JA et al. 2016 ³¹						
Burtin C et al. 2015 ³²						
Chair SY et al. 2013 ³³						
Chan DD et al. 2017 ³⁴						
Cheng ST et al. 2022 ³⁵						
Collins TC et al. 2019 ³⁶						
de Vries NM et al. 2016 ²³						
Dorresteijn TA et al. 2016 ³⁷						
Dwinger S et al. 2020 ³⁸						
Farver-Vestergaard I et al. 2018 ³⁹						
Friedberg JP et al. 2015 ⁴⁰						
Gilbert AL et al. 2018 ⁴¹						
Hattori S et al. 2019 ⁴²						
Hawkes AL et al. 2013 ^{43*}						

Fig 2 Quality assessment of included trials.

conducted either concurrently or subsequently. Interventions were classified as *integrated* when the therapeutic exercise and psychological intervention were conducted as 1 indistinguishable intervention package. A total of 16 trials (42.11%)^{28,31-33,36,39,44-49,51,52,59,60} were combined and 22 trials (57.89%)^{23-27,29,30,34,35,37,38,40-43,50,53-58} were integrated.







































































































Active comparators were primarily therapeutic exercise, including exercise programs (23.81%),^{28,34,44,53,55} PA counseling and monitoring (9.52%),^{42,48} rehabilitation programs (33.33%),^{31-33,39,47,54,59} PT (4.76%),²³ a walking program (9.52%),^{36,60} Baduanjin (4.76%),⁴⁵ Tai Chi (4.76%),⁵¹ and health education (ie, nontailored information about diet, medication, and exercise guidelines; 4.76%).⁴⁰ Psychological interventions were used as active comparators in only 3 trials (MI (9.52%) and CBT (4.76%), respectively).^{45,52,60} Control groups consisted of usual or standard care (ie, locally defined standards of care or usual care of the specific health condition of the sample as well as PA recommendations; 52.17%),^{24,26,29,31,37,38,42,50,52,56-58}

educational sessions and/or brochures covering topics such as PA recommendations, chronic pain and other health conditions, nutrition, and safety (34.78%),^{27,28,35,36,40,43,46,49} waitlist (8.70%),^{30,53} or no further contact following baseline (4.35%).²⁵




Outcomes

As illustrated in figure 3, study outcomes were organized using the ICF framework.

A detailed overview is provided in table 2.²³⁻⁶⁰ Instruments used to measure ICF outcomes are summarized in supplemental table S3. Body functions and structures were assessed by 27 trials,^{23-28,31-35,38-41,43-47,49,50,52,53,58-60} activity was measured by 22 trials,^{23,24,26-29,31,32,34,36,41,42,44,47,49,51-56,60} and participation was assessed by 36 trials.^{23-48,51-60} Personal factors were examined by 22 trials.^{24-26,28,29,31,35,37-39,42-50,53-54,59}

Hirase T et al. 2018 ⁴⁴						
Jing L et al. 2018 ⁴⁵						
Knittle K et al. 2015 ^{46*}						
Kroesen SH et al. 2024 ⁴⁷						
Larsen RT et al. 2021 ⁴⁸						
Latham NK et al. 2014 ⁴⁹						
Liu X et al. 2023 ⁵⁰						
Liu YM & Tsui CM 2014 ⁵¹						
Lo YP et al. 2020 ⁵²						
Nicholas MK et al. 2013 ⁵³						
Pfeiffer K et al. 2020 ⁵⁴						
Phoobangkerdphol C et al. 2022 ⁵⁵						
Salpakoski A et al. 2014 ^{56*}						
Seifert M et al. 2024 ⁵⁷						
Snoek JA et al. 2021 ⁵⁸						
Spatola CAM JA et al. 2024 ⁵⁹						
Thompson ED et al. 2024 ⁶⁰						

Domains:
D1: Bias Arising from the Randomization Process
D2: Bias due to Deviations from Intended Intervention
D3: Bias due to Missing Outcome Data
D4: Bias in Measurement of the Outcome
D5: Bias in Selection of the Reported Result

Judgement:
 Low Risk
 Some Concerns
 High Risk

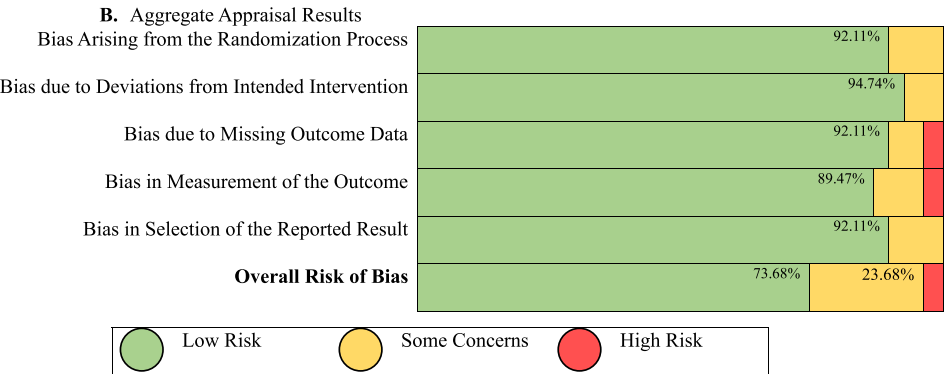


Fig 2 Continued.

Effects of combined or integrated interventions by ICF outcome

The effects of therapeutic exercise with psychological interventions on disability and personal outcomes are displayed in [figure 4](#).

[Supplemental table S3](#) displays the study characteristics, pattern of findings, and statistics for studies with

statistically significant between-group effects. We summarize the results by ICF outcome in the following.

Body functions and structures

Active comparator

Fifteen trials^{[23,28,31-34,39,41,44,45,47,52,53,59,60](#)} examined whether the intervention improved body functions and

Table 1 Therapeutic exercise and psychological intervention characteristics

Therapeutic exercise interventions	Psychological interventions	Combined		Integrated	
		N	%	N	%
Exercise programs	MI	2	5.26%	1	2.63%
	CBT	2	5.26%	4	10.53%
	MI and CBT	-	-	1	2.63%
	Mindfulness meditation	-	-	1	2.63%
	PST	-	-	1	2.63%
Exercise program and physical activity monitoring	MI	-	-	1	2.63%
	Physical activity counseling and monitoring	3	7.89%	6	15.79%
	CBT	-	-	2	5.26%
	MI and CBT	1	2.63%	-	-
Rehabilitation programs	ACT	-	-	1	2.63%
	MI	1	2.63%	2	5.26%
	CBT	2	5.26%	1	2.63%
	ACT	1	2.63%	-	-
Walking programs	MI	2	5.26%	-	-
	Mindfulness meditation	-	-	1	2.63%
Baduanjin	CBT	1	2.63%	-	-
Tai Chi	CBT	1	2.63%	-	-

Abbreviations: ACT, acceptance-commitment therapy; CBT, cognitive-behavioral therapy; MI, motivational interviewing; PST, problem-solving therapy.

structure outcomes compared with an active comparator. Twelve trials found no difference between groups on clinical outcomes,^{31,33,59,60} muscle strength,^{28,32,47,52} physical health status,³⁹ lung function,^{32,52} frailty,³⁴ and/or pain intensity.^{41,44} Six trials^{23,34,45,47,52,53} found significant group differences benefiting the intervention compared with an active comparator. Lo et al⁵² assessed exercise+MI versus MI versus standard care in older adults with multimorbidity.

Improved work (watts) and anaerobic threshold (L/min) were observed in the exercise+MI group (vs. MI) at 12 weeks. Kroesen et al⁴⁷ examined cardiac rehabilitation (CR)+MI versus CR in CR patients. Improved HDL-cholesterol was observed in the CR+MI group at 12 weeks. Chan et al³⁴ evaluated high level care (exercise+PST) versus low level care (exercise+education) in older adults with frailty. Increased grip strength was observed in the high level care group at

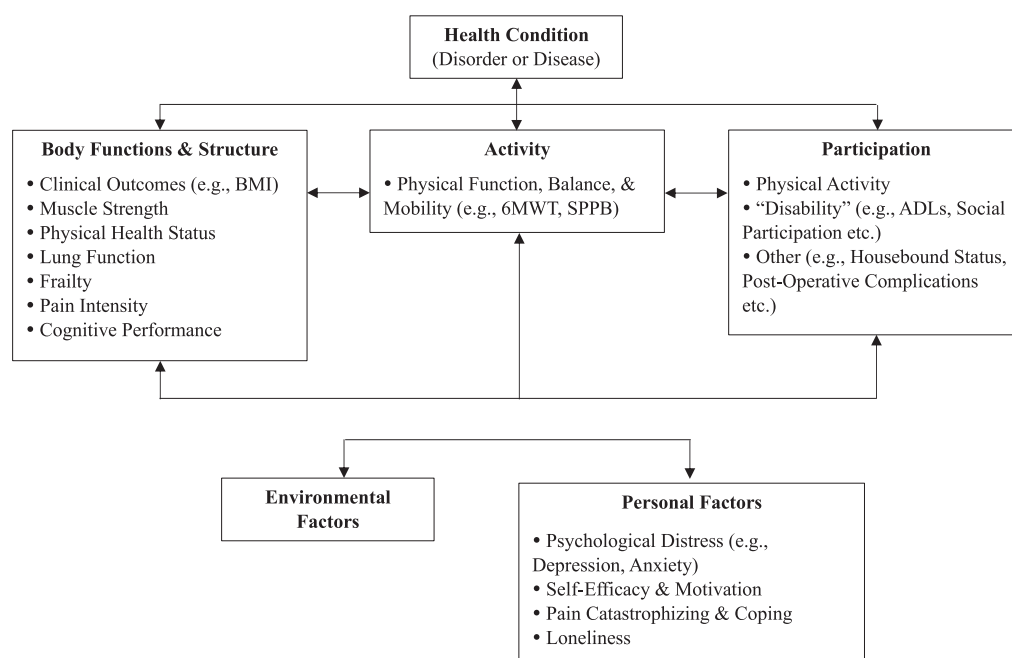


Fig 3 Adapted ICF framework of included disability outcomes and personal factors. Abbreviations: 6MWT, 6-minute walk test; ADLs, activities of daily living; BMI, body mass index; SPPB, Short Physical Performance Battery.

Table 2 Effects of therapeutic exercise with psychological interventions on disability and personal outcomes in older adults (N=38)

Reference	Sample	Intervention	Comparator	Follow-up	ICF framework components			
					Body functions and structures	Activity	Participation	Personal Factors
Intervention vs. active comparator (N=15)								
Burtin et al ³²	COPD	PR+PA counseling and monitoring+MI and CBT	PR	3 and 6-mo	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Muscle strength (quadriceps)• Lung function	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Physical function, balance, and mobility	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• PA	
Chair et al ³³	CR patients with poor motivation	CR+MI	CR	6, 9, and 12 mo	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Clinical outcomes			<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Psychological distress
Chan et al ³⁴	Frailty	Exercise program+problem-solving therapy	Exercise program	3, 6, and 12 mo	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Muscle strength (grip)• Frailty	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Physical function, balance, and mobility	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• PA	
De Vries et al ²³	Mobility problems	Exercise program and PA monitoring+MI	Physical therapy	3 and 6 mo	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Frailty	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Physical function, balance, and mobility	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• PA	
Farver-Vestergaard et al ³⁹	COPD	PR+CBT	PR	8-wk and 3 and 6 mo	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Physical health status		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• PA	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Psychological distress
Gilbert et al ⁴¹	Arthritis	PA counseling and monitoring +MI	PA counseling and monitoring	24 mo	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pain intensity	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Physical function, balance, and mobility	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• PA	
Hirase et al ⁴⁴	Chronic pain	Exercise program+CBT	Exercise program	12 wk	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pain intensity	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Physical function, balance, and mobility	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• PA• “Disability”	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Psychological Distress• Pain catastrophizing and coping
Jing et al ⁴⁵	Homebound	Baduanjin+CBT	Baduanjin or CBT	6 mo	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Physical health status• Lung function		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• “Disability”• Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Psychological distress• Loneliness
Kroesen et al ⁴⁷	CR patients with poor motivation	CR+MI	CR	12 wk	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Clinical outcomes• Muscle Strength	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Physical function, balance, and mobility	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• PA	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Self-efficacy and motivation
Larsen et al ⁴⁸	Community-dwelling	PA counseling and monitoring +MI	PA counseling and monitoring	12 wk			<ul style="list-style-type: none">• PA	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Self-efficacy and motivation
Liu and Tsui ⁵¹	Community-dwelling	Tai Chi+CBT	Tai Chi	8 wk and 2 mo		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Physical function, balance, and mobility	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• PA• “Disability”	
Pfeiffer et al ⁵⁴	Hip and pelvic fracture	Rehabilitation+CBT	Rehabilitation	2 and 3 mo		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Physical function, balance, and mobility	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• PA• “Disability”• Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Self-efficacy and motivation
Phoobangkerdphol et al ⁵⁵	Fall history	Walking program+mindfulness meditation	Exercise program	6 and 9 mo		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Physical function, balance, and mobility		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Psychological distress
Spatola et al ⁵⁹	CR patients	CR+acceptance-commitment therapy	CR	3 wk	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Clinical outcomes		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• PA	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Psychological distress
Thompson et al ⁶⁰	Community-dwelling	Walking program+MI	Walking program or MI	12 wk	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Clinical outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Physical function, balance, and mobility	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• PA	

(continued)

Table 2 (Continued)

Reference	Sample	Intervention	Comparator	Follow-up	ICF framework components			
					Body functions and structures	Activity	Participation	Personal Factors
Intervention vs. control condition (N=17)								
Allen et al ²⁴	Hip or knee osteoarthritis	Exercise program+CBT	Standard care	6 and 12 mo	• Clinical outcomes	• Physical function, balance, and mobility	• PA	• Psychological distress
Anderson et al ²⁵	Adenoma following Colorectal Cancer Screening	PA counseling and monitoring +MI	No further contact	3 and 12 mo	• Clinical outcomes		• PA	• Self-efficacy and motivation
Arbillaga-Etxarri et al ²⁶	COPD	PA counseling and monitoring +MI	Standard care	12 mo	• Clinical outcomes • Physical health status	• Physical function, balance, and mobility	• PA	• Psychological distress
Archer et al ²⁷	Back surgery	PA counseling and monitoring +CBT	Educational session/ brochure	6 and 12 mo	• Disability • Pain intensity	• Disability • Physical function, balance, and mobility	• Disability • PA	
Barberan-Garcia et al ²⁹	Elective major abdominal surgery	Exercise program+MI	Standard care	Posturgical hospital length of stay		• Physical function, balance, and mobility	• PA • Other	• Psychological distress
Blackford et al ³⁰	Metabolic syndrome	PA counseling and monitoring +MI	Waitlist	6 mo			• PA	
Cheng et al ³⁵	Chronic pain	Exercise program+CBT	Educational session/ brochure	10 wk, 3 and 6 mo	• Muscle strength (hip and knee) • Pain intensity		• “Disability”	• Psychological distress • Self-efficacy and motivation • Pain catastrophizing and coping
Dorresteyjn et al ³⁷	Frailty	PA counseling and monitoring +CBT	Standard care	5 and 12 mo			• “Disability” • Other	• Self-efficacy and motivation
Dwinger et al ³⁸	Chronic conditions	PA counseling and monitoring +MI	Standard care	1, 2, and 3 y	• Clinical outcomes		• PA	• Psychological distress
Hattori et al ⁴²	Mild disability	Exercise program+MI and CBT	Standard care	3 mo		• Physical function, balance, and mobility	• PA • Other	• Psychological distress
Hawkes et al ⁴³	Colorectal cancer	PA counseling and monitoring +acceptance-commitment therapy	Educational session/ brochure	6 and 12 mo	• Clinical outcomes • Physical Health Status		• PA	• Psychological distress
Knittle et al ⁴⁶	Rheumatoid arthritis	PA counseling and monitoring +MI	Educational session/ brochure	6 and 32 wk	• Physical health status • Fatigue		• PA • “Disability”	• Psychological Distress • Self-efficacy and motivation
Latham et al ⁴⁹	Hip fracture	Exercise program+CBT	Educational session/ brochure	6 and 9 mo	• Muscle strength (lower extremity)	• Physical function, balance, and mobility		• Self-efficacy and motivation
Liu et al ⁵⁰	At risk for cognitive decline	Exercise program+mindfulness meditation	Standard care	9 mo and 1 y	• Cognitive performance			• Psychological distress • Loneliness

(continued)

Table 2 (Continued)

Reference	Sample	Intervention	Comparator	Follow-up	ICF framework components			
					Body functions and structures	Activity	Participation	Personal Factors
Salpakoski et al ⁵⁶	Hip fracture	Rehabilitation+MI	Standard care	3, 6, and 12 mo		• Physical function, balance, and mobility	• PA • “Disability”	
Seifert et al ⁵⁷	Atrial fibrillation (AF)	PA counseling and monitoring +MI	Standard care	2-wk, 6 and 12 mo			• PA	
Snook et al ⁵⁸	Declined CR	Rehabilitation+MI	Standard care	6 and 12 mo	• Clinical outcomes		• PA	
Intervention vs. active comparator vs. control condition (N=6)								
Arkkukangas et al ²⁸	Aged ≥ 75	Exercise program+MI	Exercise program or educational session/ brochure	12 wk	• Muscle strength (Grip)	• Physical function, balance, and mobility	• PA • Other	• Self-efficacy and motivation
Blumenthal et al ³¹	Coronary artery disease	CR+CBT	CR or no CR comparison group	12 wk	• Clinical outcomes	• Physical function, balance, and mobility	• PA	• Psychological distress
Collins et al ³⁶	African American patients with peripheral artery disease	Walking program+MI	Walking program+BCTs or educational session/ brochure	6 and 12 mo		• Physical function, balance, and mobility		• Self-efficacy and motivation
Friedberg et al ⁴⁰	Uncontrolled blood pressure	Exercise program+CBT	Health education or educational session/ brochure	6 mo	• Clinical Outcomes		• PA	
Lo et al ⁵²	Multimorbidity	Exercise program+MI	MI or standard care	12 wk	• Clinical outcomes • Lung function • Muscle strength (grip)	• Physical function, balance, and mobility	• PA	
Nicholas et al ⁵³	Chronic pain	Exercise program+CBT	Exercise program or waitlist	1 mo	• Pain intensity	• Physical function, balance, and mobility	• “Disability”	• Psychological distress • Self-efficacy and motivation • Pain catastrophizing and Coping

Abbreviations: BCTs, behavior change techniques; CBT, cognitive-behavioral therapy; COPD, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease; CR, cardiac rehabilitation; ICF, international classification of functioning, disability, and health; MI, motivational interviewing; PA, physical activity; PR, pulmonary rehabilitation.

Bold indicates statistical significance ($P < .05$) between-group difference; italic indicates results not reported. See [supplemental table S3](#) for details.

A. Intervention Compared to Active Comparator

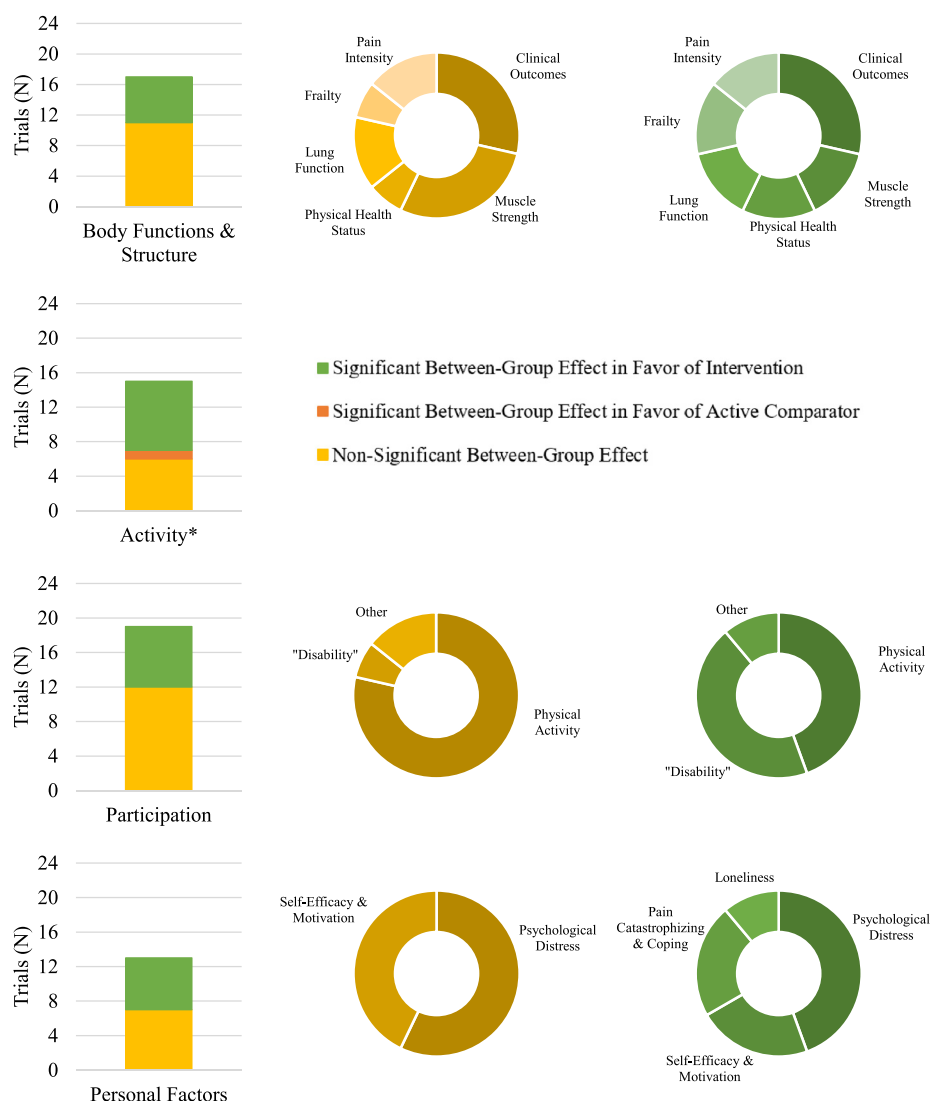


Fig 4 Effects of therapeutic exercise with psychological interventions on disability and personal outcomes in older adults. *All activity outcomes assessed physical function, balance, and mobility.

6 months. Jing et al⁴⁵ examined Baduanjin+CBT versus Baduanjin versus CBT in housebound older adults. Improved health status and lung function were observed in the Baduanjin+CBT group (vs. Baduanjin or CBT) at 6 months. De Vries et al²³ assessed Coach2Move (exercise and PA counseling and monitoring+MI) compared with PT in older adults with mobility problems. Improved frailty was observed in the Coach2Move group at 6 months. Nicholas et al⁵³ evaluated exercise+CBT versus exercise versus waitlist in older adults with chronic pain. Reduced pain intensity was observed in the exercise+CBT group (vs. exercise) at 1 month.

Control comparator

Sixteen trials^{24-28,31,35,38,40,43,46,49,50,52,53,58} examined whether the intervention improved body functions and

structure outcomes compared with a control condition. Seven trials found no difference between groups on clinical outcomes,^{24,26,31} muscle strength,²⁸ physical health status,^{26,43,46} fatigue,⁴⁶ and/or pain intensity.²⁷ Ten trials^{25,35,38,40,43,49,50,52,53,58} found significant group differences benefiting the intervention compared with a control condition. Anderson et al²⁵ assessed BeWEL (PA counseling and monitoring+MI) compared with a no further contact control in older adults with a diagnosis of colorectal adenoma. Improved weight, waist circumference, and blood pressure were observed in the BeWEL group at 3 and 12 months. Dwinger et al³⁸ evaluated telephone-based health coaching (PA counseling and monitoring+MI) versus standard care in patients with chronic conditions. Reduced body mass index was observed in the telephone-based health coaching group at 3 years. Friedberg et al⁴⁰ examined exercise+CBT versus

B. Intervention Compared to Control Condition

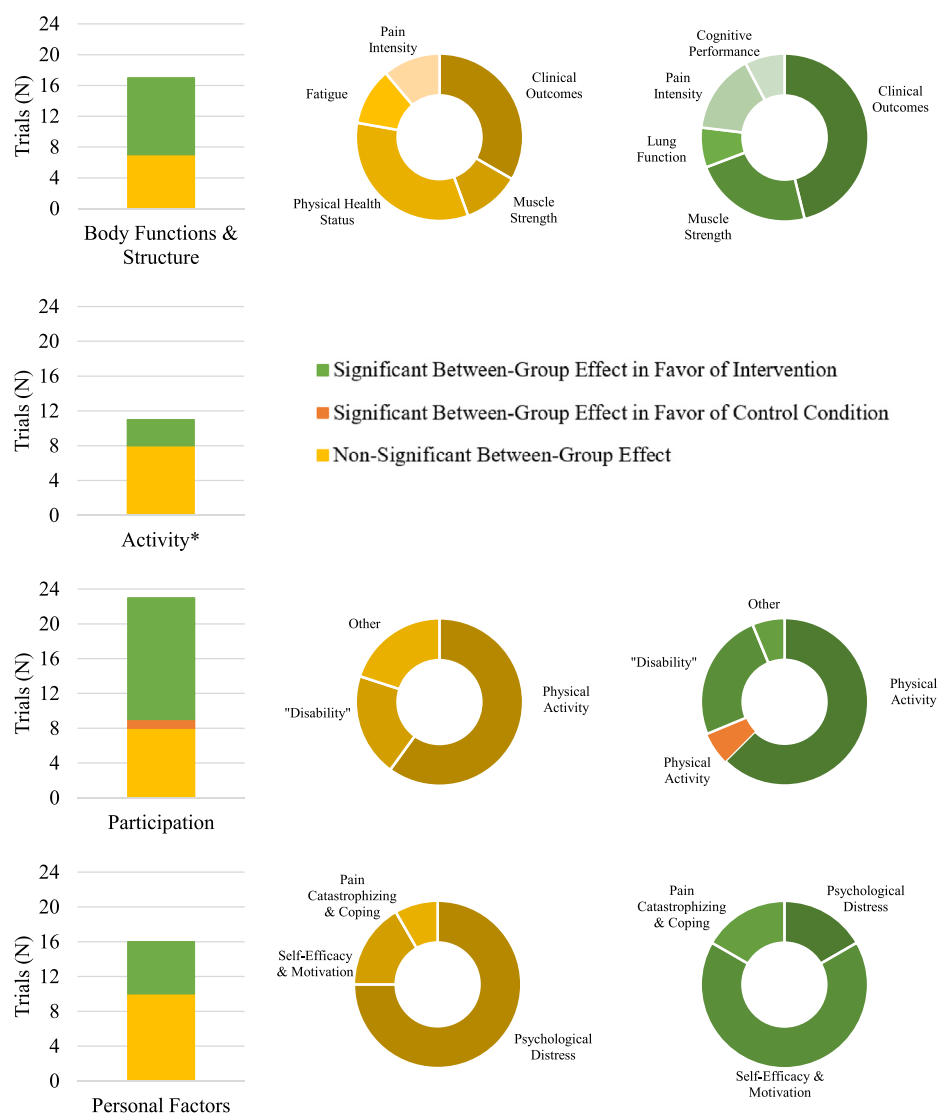


Fig 4 Continued.

exercise+education versus education in patients with uncontrolled blood pressure. Improved blood pressure was observed in the exercise+CBT group (vs. education) at 6 months. Hawkes et al⁴³ assessed health coaching (PA counseling and monitoring+ACT) versus education in colorectal cancer survivors. Reduced body mass index was observed in the health coaching group at 6 and 12 months. Snoek et al⁵⁸ evaluated home-based modified CR (CR+MI) versus standard care in patients who declined traditional CR. Improved blood pressure and VO₂ peak were observed in the CR+MI group at 6 months; improved hemoglobin and VO₂ peak observed in the CR+MI group at 12 months. Lo et al,⁵² noted above, observed improvement in VO₂ max, VO₂ predicted, work (watts), anaerobic threshold (L/min), grip strength, and lung function in the exercise+MI group (vs. standard care) at 12 weeks. Latham et al⁴⁹ examined exercise+CBT versus education in older adults who have completed rehabilitation after hip fracture. Increased lower extremity

strength was observed in the exercise+CBT group at 9 months. Cheng et al³⁵ assessed exercise+CBT versus education in older adults with chronic pain. Increased hip and knee strength and reduced pain intensity were observed in the exercise+CBT group at 10 weeks and 3 months. Nicholas et al,⁵³ noted above, observed reduced pain intensity in the exercise+CBT group (vs. waitlist) at 1 month. Liu et al⁵⁰ evaluated a multidomain intervention (exercise+mindfulness meditation) versus standard care in older adults at risk of cognitive decline. Better cognitive performance was observed in the multidomain group at 9 months.

Activity

Active comparator

Fifteen trials^{23,28,31,32,34,36,41,44,47,51-55,60} examined whether the intervention improved activity compared with an active

comparator. Ten trials found no difference between groups on physical function, balance, or mobility.^{23,28,31,32,44,47,51,52,55,60} Four trials^{34,41,53,54} found significant group differences benefiting the intervention compared with an active comparator, whereas 1 trial³⁶ found a significant group difference benefiting the active comparator compared with the intervention. Chan et al,³⁴ noted above, observed improved timed Up and Go test and Leg Stand scores in the high level care group at 6 and 12 months. Collins et al³⁶ assessed walking+MI versus walking+Patient-Centered Assessment and Counseling for Exercise (PA counseling) versus education in African American patients with peripheral artery disease. Increased walking distance was observed in the walking+Patient-Centered Assessment and Counseling for Exercise group (vs. walking+MI) at 12 months. Gilbert et al⁴¹ evaluated Improving Motivation for PA in Arthritis Clinical Trial (PA counseling and monitoring+MI) versus brief PA counseling in adults with arthritis. Improved physical function was observed in the Improving Motivation for PA in Arthritis Clinical Trial group at 24 months. Nicholas et al,⁵³ noted above, observed improved functional reach in the exercise+CBT group (vs. exercise) at 1 month. Pfeiffer et al⁵⁴ examined rehabilitation+CBT versus rehabilitation in patients with hip and pelvic fractures. Improvement in Short Physical Performance Battery scores was observed in the rehabilitation+CBT group at 3 months.

Control comparator

Twelve trials^{24,26-29,31,36,42,49,52,53,56} assessed whether the intervention improved activity compared with a control condition. Eight trials found no difference between groups on physical function, balance, or mobility.^{24,26-28,31,36,52,56} Three trials^{29,49,53} found significant group differences benefiting the intervention compared with a control condition. One trial⁴² did not report activity data. Barberan-Garcia et al²⁹ evaluated exercise+MI versus standard care in patients undergoing elective major abdominal surgery. Increased endurance was observed in the exercise+MI group postsurgery. Latham et al,⁴⁹ noted above, observed the improved Short Physical Performance Battery, Activity Measure for Post-Acute Care and Berg Balance Scale scores in the exercise+CBT group at 6 and 9 months, respectively. Nicholas et al,⁵³ noted above, observed improved functional reach in the exercise+CBT group (vs. waitlist) at 1 month.

Participation

Active comparator

Seventeen trials^{23,28,31,32,34,39,41,44,45,47,48,51-55,59,60} assessed whether the intervention improved participation compared with a control condition. Twelve trials found no difference between groups on PA,^{28,31,32,34,39,41,48,51,52,54,59} “disability,”⁵¹ and/or other participation outcomes.^{28,54} Seven trials^{23,44,45,47,53,54,60} found significant group differences benefiting the intervention compared with an active comparator. De Vries et al,²³ noted above, observed the increased moderate intensity PA in the Coach2Move group at 6 months. Kroesen et al,⁴⁷ noted above, observed decreased sedentary behavior and increased light intensity PA in the CR+MI group at 12 weeks. Thompson et al⁶⁰ assessed a walking

program+MI versus the walking program or MI alone in community-dwelling older adults. Improved daily step counts were observed for the walking+MI group (vs. walking) at 12 weeks. Hirase et al⁴⁴ evaluated exercise+CBT versus exercise in older adults with chronic pain. Increased daily step counts, light, moderate, and vigorous intensity PA, and improved activities of daily living were observed in the exercise+CBT group at 12 weeks. Jing et al,⁴⁵ noted above, observed improved activities of daily livings and housebound status in the Baduanjin+CBT group (vs. Baduanjin or CBT) at 6 months. Nicholas et al⁵³ noted above, observed reduced pain-related “disability” in the exercise+CBT group (vs. exercise) at 1 month. Pfeiffer et al,⁵⁴ noted above, observed improvement in the perceived ability to manage falls in the rehabilitation+CBT group at 3 months.

Control comparator

Twenty trials^{24-31,35,37,38,40,42,43,46,52,53,56-58} examined whether the intervention improved participation compared to a control condition. Eight trials found no difference between groups on PA,^{24,27-29,31,40} “disability,”^{27,46} and/or other participation outcomes.^{28,37} Fourteen trials^{25,26,29,30,35,37,38,43,46,52,53,56-58} found significant group differences benefiting the intervention compared to a control; whereas 1 trial²⁷ found a significant group difference benefiting the control compared to the intervention. Anderson et al,²⁵ noted above, observed increased daily step counts, total activity, and moderate intensity PA in the BeWEL group at 12 months. Arbillaga-Etxarri et al²⁶ evaluated urban training (PA counseling and monitoring+CBT) versus education in patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. Increased daily step counts were observed in the urban training group at 12 months. Archer et al²⁷ examined CBT for pain (PA counseling and monitoring+CBT) versus education in patients who underwent back surgery. Increased light intensity PA was observed in the education group at 12 months. Blackford et al³⁰ assessed the Albany PA and Nutrition program (PA counseling and monitoring+MI) versus waitlist in older adults at risk of metabolic syndrome. Increased moderate intensity PA was observed in the Albany PA and Nutrition program group at 6 months. Dwinger et al,³⁸ noted above, observed increased self-reported PA in the telephone-based health coaching group at 3 years. Hawkes et al,⁴³ noted above, observed increased moderate intensity PA in the health coaching group at 12 months. Knittle et al⁴⁶ evaluated PA counseling and monitoring+MI versus educational sessions in patients with rheumatoid arthritis. Increased light intensity PA and days with at least 30 minutes of PA were observed in the PA counseling and monitoring+MI group over 32 weeks. Lo et al,⁵² noted above, observed increased total activity and vigorous intensity PA in the exercise+MI group (vs. standard care) at 12 weeks. Increased walking and decreased sedentary time were observed in the MI group (vs. standard care) at 12 weeks. Seifert et al⁵⁷ examined PA counseling and monitoring+MI versus standard care in older adults with atrial fibrillation. Improved daily step counts and walking distance were observed for the PA counseling and monitoring+MI group at 2 weeks and 12 months. Snoek et al,⁵⁸ noted above, observed increased moderate-vigorous intensity PA in the CR+MI group at 12 months. Cheng et al,³⁵ noted above, observed reduced pain-related “disability” in the exercise

+CBT group at 3 and 6 months. Dorresteijn et al.³⁷ examined “A Matter of Balance” home-based program (PA counseling and monitoring+CBT) versus standard care in older adults with frailty. Improvement in activities of daily living was observed in the “A Matter of Balance” home-based program group at 5 and 12 months. Salpakoski et al.⁵⁶ assessed a promotion mobility rehabilitation program (rehabilitation+MI) versus standard care in patients with hip fracture. Reduced perceived difficulty in navigating stairs was observed in the promotion mobility rehabilitation program group at 6 and 12 months. Nicholas et al.⁵³ noted above, observed reduced pain-related “disability” in the exercise+CBT group (vs. waitlist) at 1 month. Barberan-Garcia et al.²⁹ noted above, observed a decreased incidence of postoperative complications in the exercise+MI group at 1 month.

Personal factors

Active comparator

Thirteen trials^{28,31,33,36,39,44,45,47,48,53-55,59} evaluated whether the intervention improved personal factors compared with an active comparator. Seven trials found no difference between groups on psychological distress^{33,44,55,59} and self-efficacy and motivation.^{28,47,48} Six trials^{31,39,44,45,53,54} found significant group differences benefiting the intervention compared with an active comparator. One trial³⁶ did not report personal factors data. Blumenthal et al.³¹ examined CR+CBT versus CR versus no further contact in patients with coronary artery disease. Reduced depression, anxiety, anger, perceived stress, and general psychological distress were observed in the CR+CBT group (vs. CR) at 12 weeks. Farver-Vestergaard et al.³⁹ assessed pulmonary rehabilitation (PR)+CBT versus PR in patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. Reduced depression and anxiety were observed in the PR+CBT group across 6 months. Jing et al.⁴⁵ noted above, observed reduced depression and loneliness in the Baduanjin+CBT group (vs. Baduanjin or CBT) at 6 months. Nicholas et al.⁵³ noted above, observed reduced depression, increased pain-related self-efficacy, and reduced pain catastrophizing in the exercise+CBT group (vs. exercise) at 1 month. Pfeiffer et al.⁵⁴ noted above, observed increased fall-related self-efficacy in the rehabilitation+CBT group at 3 months. Hirase et al.⁴⁴ noted above, observed reduced pain catastrophizing in the exercise+CBT group at 12 weeks.

Control comparator

Sixteen trials^{24-26,28,29,31,35-38,42,43,46,49,50,53} evaluated whether the intervention improved personal factors compared with a control condition. Ten trials found no difference between groups on psychological distress,^{24,26,29,31,35,38,43,46,53} self-efficacy and motivation,^{28,53} and/or pain catastrophizing and coping.³⁵ Six trials^{35,37,46,49,50,53} found significant group differences benefiting the intervention compared with a control condition. Three trials^{25,36,42} did not report personal factors data. Liu et al.⁵⁰ noted above, observed increased satisfaction with life, improved attitudes toward one’s own aging, and reduced depression and anxiety in the exercise+mindfulness meditation group at 9 months. Cheng et al.³⁵ noted above, observed increased pain-related self-efficacy in the exercise

+CBT group at 3 and 6 months. Dorresteijn et al.³⁷ noted above, observed increased fall-related self-efficacy in the “A Matter of Balance” home-based program group at 5 and 12 months. Knittle et al.⁴⁶ noted above, observed increased self-efficacy for exercise and treatment self-regulation in the PA counseling and monitoring+MI group over 32 weeks. Latham et al.⁴⁹ noted above, observed increased self-efficacy for exercise in the exercise+CBT group over 9 months. Nicholas et al.⁵³ noted above, observed reduced pain catastrophizing in the exercise+CBT group (vs. waitlist) at 1 month.

Discussion

This systematic review evaluated the evidence of findings from 38 eligible trials that examined the effects of therapeutic exercise with psychological interventions on ICF outcomes. A range of therapeutic exercise interventions was used with exercise programs (32%) and PA counseling and monitoring (32%) most common. Psychological interventions were primarily CBT (34%) and MI (47%). When compared with an active comparator and/or control group, the intervention demonstrated significant improvement in body functions and structures (n=14, 37%), activity (n=6, 16%), participation (n=20, 53%), and personal factors (n=11, 29%). As previously theorized, results are indicative of the greater utility of therapeutic exercise with psychological interventions on participation and personal factors, reflecting the underlying psychosocial nature of these outcomes.¹⁸ Although CBT appears more promising for addressing personal factors such as psychological distress compared with MI, MI appears more promising for addressing participation compared with CBT.

Cognitive-behavioral therapy

When paired with therapeutic exercise, CBT produced positive results in 10 trials (83%), with 3 trials^{44,45,51} including some RoB and 1 trial³⁹ with a high RoB. CBT showed positive results in 5 trials (40%)^{35,40,45,49,53} assessing body functions and structures, 3 trials (38%)^{49,53,54} assessing activity, 6 trials (50%)^{35,37,44,45,53,54} assessing participation, and 9 trials (90%)^{31,35,37,39,44,45,49,53,54} assessing personal factors. Studies were heterogeneous regarding population, therapeutic exercise intervention, and design (ie, length and dosage of CBT). The populations that primarily received CBT were those with chronic pain or vulnerable subgroups (ie, older adults who were frail and housebound), and those receiving PR or CR. These findings suggest that CBT interventions may be well-suited for patients with hip fracture and chronic pain because positive trials within these populations primarily used CBT. CBT emphasizes the connection between a stressor and an individual’s appraisal and interpretation of that stressor by examining the connection between thoughts, behavior, and emotions.¹⁴ This approach benefits patients with hip fracture and chronic pain who face clear stressors during their treatment and recovery. Negative results were found in 3 trials^{24,27,51} likely due to specific limitations. For example, Archer et al.²⁷ found no group differences after back surgery, but sensitivity analyses showed improvement in select outcomes for those who completed all 6 CBT sessions compared with the control condition.

CBT skills can be incorporated into therapeutic exercise with varying intensities in terms of exposure to CBT content during the session, dose (ie, frequency and duration of sessions), and purpose (ie, to decrease pain-related cognitions to increase PA, to increase values-aligned pleasant events as part of increasing PA).⁶¹ Furthermore, CBT is effective in addressing co-occurring primary outcomes, such as depression and/or anxiety and low PA.⁶² Despite published cognitive-behavioral coaching protocols, there is a lack of provider training, materials, and resources for everyday clinical practice, limiting the dissemination of CBT skills in therapeutic exercise.⁶³

Motivational interviewing

When paired with therapeutic exercise, MI produced positive results in 16 trials (89%), with 4 trials^{23,38,46,52} having some RoB. MI showed positive results in 6 trials (50%)^{23,25,38,47,52,58} assessing body functions and structures, 2 trials (20%)^{29,41} assessing activity, 13 trials (72%)^{23,25,26,29,30,38,46,47,52,56-58,60} assessing participation, and 1 trial (10%)⁴⁶ assessing personal factors. These results align with the broader literature supporting MI for promoting health behaviors, including smoking cessation and PA, but less utility for impacting personal factors such as emotional distress.¹⁶ Study heterogeneity was noted with respect to population, design, and interventions. Two MI trials^{28,48} with negative results had small sample sizes, a contributor in the nonsignificant results. Findings suggest that MI may be valuable adjunct to therapeutic exercise, particularly for participation outcomes.

Clinicians working with older adults are encouraged to incorporate MI into practice, particularly among patients ambivalent about therapeutic change (eg, low adherence to exercise plans). Brief action planning, an MI-based tool, can facilitate patient self-management and health behavior change with less training than full MI. Brief action planning has seen an increasing uptake in North America since its early 2000s creation.⁶⁴

Limitations

Eligible trials were heterogeneous in design, methods, and interventions, preventing conclusions on the findings' certainty. Our review organized results using the ICF framework; however, it is possible that other frameworks could handle ambiguity in the ICF framework for outcome measures such as health-related quality of life which we excluded due to overlap across ICF domains.^{65,66} We selected to use the ICF framework because it is an established framework of function, disability, and health within the individual endorsed as the international standard to describe and measure health and disability.³ The review was restricted to a 12-year look-back to focus on recent developments in the field and to balance thoroughness with feasibility. Trial eligibility was restricted to stand-alone psychological interventions combined or integrated with therapeutic exercise; thus, the results cannot be generalized to trials that combined or integrated therapeutic exercise interventions with behavioral change techniques. Over half of the trials provided no data on adverse events and dropouts. Nine trials (24%)^{23,32,38,44-46,50-52} warranted some concern for RoB, and 1 trial (3%)³⁹ raised high concern. The quality assessment

showed bias due to concerns regarding the blinding of outcome assessment and limited details regarding randomization methodology. Sample sizes ranged from 43 to over 10,000. Small sample sizes may bias estimates and reduce generalizability. Trials tested primary and secondary outcomes, for example, pain levels, strength, and blood pressure in the same study. We opted to include all relevant outcomes in accordance with the original trials rather than restrict to primary outcomes only, to capture all outcomes under disability and personal outcomes. Given the number of outcomes, only statistically significant results were captured with effect size estimates when available. Clinically meaningful differences were not presented in this review. The current review is subject to publication bias. Attempts were made by email and through clinicaltrials.gov to locate missing information for 3 trials.^{25,36,42} We were unable to locate missing information for those 3 trials.

Future directions

We restricted trials to community-dwelling samples to enhance the homogeneity of the sample because individuals living in the community are typically healthier with better overall functioning compared with individuals in long-term care. Future reviews are needed in long-term care settings to better understand the effects of combined or integrated intervention on ICF outcomes in this population. As more trials emerge, it will be important to further synthesize the literature by diagnosis or specific ICF outcome, which may allow for conclusions on the certainty of evidence by reducing the heterogeneity of trials. Variation was noted across trials with respect to what elements of the psychological interventions were included, and there was no standard definition of psychological interventions that would guide the minimal intervention elements that should be included to be called CBT or MI. Future interdisciplinary efforts should specify basic criteria for when an intervention can be classified as CBT and/or MI, such as minimum number of elements to be considered consistent with stand-alone CBT or MI. Future studies are needed comparing combined or integrated interventions to active comparators (e.g., stand-alone CBT or MI) in order to examine the additive effects of the combined or integrated interventions compared to either intervention alone. In addition, future reviews could focus solely on health-related quality of life as an outcome given it was excluded for overlap across ICF domains. In our review of the literature, many investigators posit that combined or integrated interventions improve outcomes because of the psychological intervention targeting barriers to PA or exercise (eg, depression, motivation, confidence, and/or self-care behaviors). To our knowledge, only 1 eligible trial⁴⁹ conducted the secondary analysis of whether their combined intervention improved ICF outcomes through changes in exercise self-efficacy.⁶⁷ Future studies assessing mechanisms underlying combined or integrated interventions are needed.

Conclusions

Therapeutic exercise with psychological interventions show promise for improving disability outcomes and personal

factors in older adults. Participation and personal outcomes may be particularly favorable when using these interventions, given the psychological and social factors that underlie such outcomes.¹⁸ For future research advancement, we recommend examining mechanisms underlying these interventions, guidance on the selection and pairing of interventions, and assessment of additive benefits through more testing of these interventions against active comparators.

Suppliers

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Disclosures

The authors declare no conflicts of interest.

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