

Volume 2, Issue 1

Short Article

Date of Submission: 29 July, 2026

Date of Acceptance: 09 September, 2026

Date of Publication: 23 September, 2026

A Bibliometric Study of Major Depressive Disorder Dissertations

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Citation: Tharp, G. (2026). A Bibliometric Study of Major Depressive Disorder Dissertations. *Clin Trials Med Case Rep*, 2(1), 01-05.

Abstract

Major depressive disorder's characteristic features have many perceived origins; however a bibliometric study of major depressive disorder attempts to develop rehabilitation strategies to help patients function. However, an examination of a curated collection of major depressive disorder dissertations available in World Cat through a bibliometric study attempts to give greater clarity as to how to manage major depressive disorder.

Keywords: Bibliometric Analysis, Literature Review, Major Depressive Disorder, Integrated Manual Therapy

Introduction

Freeman and colleagues article on patient outcome expectations in combinations with a bibliographic analysis identifying neurorehabilitative techniques identifies that patient outcomes are probably indicative of a mind-body connection in major depressive disorder and transcends physiological interventions to include rehabilitation techniques, this article seeks to identify rehabilitative techniques identified in the dissertations on major depressive disorder to find more areas where patient outcomes can be studied. As Zhang and colleagues reports that there is an uptick in the prevalence of major depressive disorder (MDD) globally by 56.36%, there is international interest in learning about demystifying the origins of major depressive disorder especially as Bains and colleagues notes that patients exhibit symptoms which include a persistently low or depressed mood feelings of guilt or worthless, and other symptoms. However, Jio and colleagues and Hohls⁵ and colleagues postulated that Major Depressive Disorder is influenced by risk factors manifesting in late adulthood, such as frailty and quality of life. Also, Blanquer Cortes⁶ and colleagues and Nagata and colleagues found that social media among adolescents is correlated with depression. Also, Pagonabarraga and colleagues and Conroy⁹ found that depression is also comorbid with neurological disorders, so this rehabilitation techniques identified in this paper may help a wide spectrum of people ranging from adolescents to those with neurological disorders.

A Curated Collection of Major Depressive Disorder Dissertations

The curated process evaluative criteria seek to identify the steps used in the WorldCat bibliometric study for transparency.

Curative Process Evaluative Criteria

The curative process evaluative criteria are used to get a grasp of the major depressive disorder literature available worldwide through one bibliometric study, the WorldCat bibliometric study.

World Cat

The purpose of this bibliometric study is to examine major depressive disorders dissertations from 1950 to 2026 located on the WorldCat database to inform current knowledge of major depressive disorder. The WorldCat database was chosen because it is a comprehensive database of holdings of libraries, ranging from dissertations to books which mitigates the appearance of what Smith and colleagues calls selection bias in that the dissertations are from a particular institution, such as Cornell University, or from a particular field, such as psychiatry, or even a specific school of thought concerning major depressive disorder. The first step of this study is to identify dissertations containing the following

keywords: "Major Depressive Disorder". One may ask why these keywords were chosen, the answer is quite simply that practitioners, such as psychiatrics academics students, policymakers, and others involved in the field of major depressive disorder may use these keywords to either locate general information on major depressive disorder search archival and MARC (library cataloging) records for materials on schizophrenia, and policymakers, lobbyists, and think tanks may use these keywords to locate schizophrenia information. Now that the keywords for this study are identified, the next step is to explain how the WorldCat database was used to search for major depressive disorder dissertations. In the "Format" filter toolbar on WorldCat, the "Thesis, Dissertation" box is selected and the "Custom Year Range" is selected from 1950 to 2026 to get a broad sense of what dissertations exist and the World Cat database is used as WorldCat is free and is widely used internationally to locate research.

Just typing the keywords "major depressive disorder" into the WorldCat search bar yields 3,914 results for dissertations from 1950 to 2026. Next, the abstracts of the articles were examined to select a subset of dissertations focused specifically on rehabilitation strategies in schizophrenia because rehabilitation strategies are constantly being innovated due to advances in technology socioeconomic, and sociopolitical factors. The last step in the process of developing a curated collection of major depressive disorder dissertations is to review the abstracts and titles of the articles again to ensure that both the title and the abstract are aligned with rehabilitation in major depressive disorder.

Year	Source	Author(s)	Title	DOI/OCLC Number
2025	University of California, Los Angeles [Los Angeles, CA]	Jennifer Tustison	Mindfulness Meditation as an Adjunct to Esketamine Treatment for Major Depressive Disorder	1528048911
2022	Chatham University, Pittsburg, PA	Bobbi Nnodim	The use of psychoeducation to decrease major depressive disorder symptoms	1349358548
2021	Pennsylvania State University, [University Park, Pennsylvania]	Vivian Nguyen, Michelle Gayle Newman, Schreyer Honors College	Why Sleep is Key: Poor Sleep Quality is a Mechanism for the Bidirectional Relationship between Major Depressive Disorder and Generalized Anxiety Disorder Across 18 Years	1258261971
2020	Queen's University at Kingston [Kingston, Ontario]	Melissa Milanovic	Cognitive Training in Major Depressive Disorder: Perceptions of Cognitive Malleability, Importance of Autonomy and Efficacy of a Brief Psychoeducational Intervention	1531985668
2019	University of Toronto [Toronto, Ontario]	Aliya Morgan Lucatch	Effects of Cannabis Abstinence on Symptoms and Cognition in Major Depressive Disorder	1335044070
2012	University of Pretoria	Enos Morankoana Romano	Perceptions and practices of occupational therapists in determining work capacity of employees suffering from major depressive disorder	956377444

Table 1: Collection of Major Depressive Disorder Dissertations

Bibliometric Studies Summary

Table 1 summarizes the articles from all the bibliometric studies, published from 1950 to 2026, that were curated for this collection. The bibliometric study of WorldCat in Table 1 is supplemented by a bibliometric study of the ClinicalTrials.gov website located via the National Library of Medicine National Center for Biotechnology Information website in an effort to locate additional rehabilitation strategies for Major Depressive Disorder informed by clinical trials. Using the "Focus Your Search" option on clinicaltrials.gov the "condition/disease" dropdown box is populated with the term "Major Depressive Disorder" and the "Other terms" dropdown box is populated with the term "Rehabilitation" and "Study Status" selection is "All studies" to get a sense of what rehabilitative strategies are in the pipeline and or have been tried for Major Depressive Disorder in clinical trials. Just from the titles of the studies, the following clinical studies for Major Depressive Disorder are curated and made available in Table 2. The clinical trials curation for Major Depressive Disorder serves to offer additional evidence for rehabilitative strategies for Major Depressive Disorder offered in the discussion section as well as the global impact of Major Depressive Disorder across many subpopulations, such as veterans, across the lifespan.

Year	Source	Author(s)/Sponsor(s)	Title
2025	Fundacio Institut de Recerca de l'Hospital de la Santa Creu	Fundacio Institut de Recerca de l'Hospital de la Santa Creu	Integral Cognitive Remediation for Depression
2025	Portland VA Medical Center	Joren Adams	Cognitive Rehabilitation for Veterans With MDD-related Cognitive Functioning Deficits
2024	Thammasat University	Yindee Bootra	Effects of Electroacupuncture on Cognitive Symptoms in Major Depressive Disorder

2024	Iowa State University	Jacob Meyer	Feasibility of Resistance Exercise to Treat Major Depression Via Cerebrovascular Mechanisms
2024	Omni C&S	Omni C&S	Study of Virtual Reality-based Medical Device for Patients with Depressive Disorder
2022	Hospital de Sant Pau	Maria J Portella	Integral Remediation for Major Depression ("Rehabilitacion Intergral Para la Depresion Mayor", RIDEM)(RIDEM)
2020	Kowloon Hospital, Hong Kong	Dr. Lau Mo Yee Polly	Effectiveness of a Structured Physical Rehabilitation Program for Chinese Patients with Depressive Disorders
2018	Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center	Dartmouth-Hitcock Medical Center	Comparing Mobile Health (mHealth) and Clinic-Based Self-Management Interventions for Serious Mental Illness
2016	Instituto Nacional de Psiquiatria Dr. Ramon de la Fuente	Jorge J. Gonzalez Olvera	Music Therapy for Major Depressive Disorder Residual Symptoms (MTMDDRS)
2014	University of California, San Francisco	University of California, San Francisco	Practicing Alternative Techniques to Heal From Depression: The PATH-D Study (PATH-D)
2014	Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center	Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center	Individually Based Psychosocial Rehabilitation for Older People With Serious Mental Illness (SMI)
2013	Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center	Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center	Thinking Skills for Work in Severe Mental Illness (TSW)
2013	Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center	Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center	Health Care Management and Rehabilitation Skills Training for Treating Serious Mental Illness in Older People

Table 2: Collection of Major Depressive Disorder Clinical Trials

Discussion

From a review of WorldCat doctoral dissertations, a patient-centered rehabilitative model begins to emerge for Major Depressive Disorder in an attempt to treat the rising worldwide cases of Major Depressive Disorder and appears to fall into a few domains

- Rosen's telerehabilitation model or rehabilitation strategies incorporating cognitive behavioral theory (CBT) and other cognitive strategies, including lifestyle modifications such as decreasing cannabis usage, to help major depressive disorder patients function in society.
- A multidisciplinary approach is needed to help major depressive disorder patients improve societal functioning, not just including traditional medicine practitioners but also alternative medicine practitioners such as occupational therapists.
- Draper-Rodi and colleagues states that manual therapy or a range of hands on interventions suggests that there it touches upon key aspects of patient cognition. Conceivably manual therapy performed by chiropractors, physical therapists, and other practitioners may be able to improve the features of Major Depressive Disorder simply by applying human touch. While integrated manual therapy is very similar to psychoeducation noted in the WorldCat dissertations on Major Depressive Disorder, it relies on touch rather than talk therapy to address cognition and other features of Major Depressive Disorder. Works by Drs. Sharon WeiselfishGiammatteo and Thomas Giammatteo, the co-founders of Integrated Manual Therapy, such as Reflective Therapy, give rise to the concept that IMT or Integrated Manual Therapy is a rehabilitative technique for use in Major Depressive Disorder in that Singla and Bottcher do support that Major Depressive Disorder does have profound effects on the autonomous nervous system, such as physical functioning, such as detrimental effects on cardiac function, and Drs. Weisel fish Giammatteo and Giammatteo's works do have IMT techniques for the autonomous nervous system.
- Additionally, Traditional Chinese Manual Therapy (Tuina) may be an adjunctive treatment option in major depressive disorder in that Tuina addresses underlying condition(s) which may be making major depressive disorder worse or causing flareups, such as dizziness originating from the cervical spine or cervicogenic dizziness. Also, as Zhan and colleagues' study proved safety and efficacy for Tunia Tinia can be a part of the rehabilitative model for Major Depressive Disorder alongside or separate from acupuncture therapy for Major Depressive Disorder which has been proven to also be effective and safety by Chen and colleagues Zhang, and Zhichao.
- Noted by Lin and colleagues and Li and colleagues, acupressure is considered to be effective and safe for Major Depressive Disorder and thus acupressure is part of a self-care approach that patients can take to treat their Major Depressive Disorder in conjunction with traditional pharmacological treatments.
- Noted by Yang and colleagues and Dang and colleagues, SNSF, Chai Hu Shu Gaun San, and Xingnao Jieyu Decoction were considered to be effective herbal remedies for treating depression however it is unknown such herbal remedies interact with traditional Western medicine prescriptions.
- Also, some patients may benefit from CT-152 as noted by Cochran, et. al. and Rothman, et. al. in conjunction with their antidepressants while other patients may benefit from Magnetic Seizure Therapy as described by Wang and colleagues or accelerated transcranial magnetic stimulation as described by Luehr and colleagues or even GABA-

based Allopregnanolone and preganolone neurosteroids noted by Gunay and colleague.

- Some patients may benefit from using wearable technologies for Major Depressive Disorder noted by Walscotts and colleagues as a treatment modality.
- An individualized rehabilitative model for Major Depressive Disorder also has its origins from Corrigan and colleagues' brain injury care model, specifically within the self-management arm as patients, caregivers, and others can use public libraries, archives' online holdings and archives for free to search for reference resources on Major Depressive Disorder either using the catalog and or asking reference librarians. Educating or informing oneself also includes peer education (either through traditional group psychotherapy and or lectures at the public library) and education of healthcare providers on how Major Depressive Disorder affects them as well as advocating for treatment that works best for them. Also using a prescribed protocol for education on Major Depressive Disorder is based on Fritz and colleagues and includes on-site liaisons from mental health advocacy organizations, such as the National Alliance of Mental Illness, providing coaching of both the library and archive and its patrons in an effort to formulate a sigma free way to access information on Major Depressive Disorder as well as a performance assessment both from the patient's viewpoint and the library's viewpoint.

Conclusion

A review of dissertations on Major Depressive Disorder offers adjunctive ways to manage Major Depressive Disorder, which suggests that there is a mind-body connection in Major Depressive Disorder. While perhaps rehabilitative strategies and library and archival self help resources may be adjuncts to manage Major Depressive Disorder symptoms either using telerehabilitation or in-office or in-hospital settings in conjunction with medication in an effort to make patients functioning members of society, additional studies, including those building on patient expectations, and clinical trials need to be conducted to ascertain adherence, effectiveness, and to establish these adjuncts as well established ways to manage Major Depressive Disorder.

Author Biography

Gregory K. Tharp, MLS, Adv. Cert., MCAC, CCEP, CGSP, CPhT

ORCID 0000-0001-7372-3988 Greg Tharp has over 20 years of experience as a librarian.

Tharp holds a Paralegal Certificate from Boston University, a Master's Certificate in Acquisition and Contract Management from American Graduate University, an Advanced Certificate in Archives Management from Simmons University, a Master of Library Science from Southern Connecticut State University, and a Bachelor of Science from Sacred Heart University where he was elected to Phi Eta Sigma and received the Passion for Learning Award. Tharp also holds a Certificate of Professional Librarianship from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners and is a licensed Massachusetts Pharmacy Technician and a licensed New York Pharmacy Technician. Additionally, he received acquisitions training at Defense Acquisitions University, Federal Acquisitions Institute, and the University of Virginia. He also received human resources training at HR University and legal training at New England Law Boston. Tharp has authored on commercial government contracts in the Contracting Excellence Journal and has presented on government contracts at the Naval Postgraduate School Acquisition Research Symposium. Tharp has written a book on commercial government contracts with Eliva Press and wrote a book on website reviews with Eliva Press. He has also coauthored an article on Chinese academic libraries in the Library Hi Tech journal presented on virtual reality in academic libraries at the Library Research Seminar VII, and has published library website reviews in Tech Services Quarterly.

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