



Short-Term Psychoanalytic Supportive Psychotherapy (SPSP-50)

What is SPSP-50?

SPSP-50 is an abbreviation of short-term psychoanalytic supportive psychotherapy, where 50 stands for 50 treatment sessions.

This treatment may help you if you suffer from personality disorders and persistent or recurrent mood disorders. Different aspects are at play in mood disorders:

- The predisposition you have from birth.
- The events you experience in your life.
- The vulnerable parts of your character.

In SPSP-50 you and your therapist explore how your mood disorders are connected to your life experiences, your current relationships, the impact of past experiences, and how you perceive yourself.

An important outcome of the treatment is that your mood disorders subside, you feel less vulnerable, and you feel better. You will also work with your therapist to explore the difficult experiences from your past that have an impact on this. It will help you to better understand yourself. You will recognise unhelpful thoughts and emotions that you have not yet processed. You will also often start seeing yourself and others from a different perspective. This will boost your self-confidence and you can often have more positive relationships with others. This may help to prevent you from experiencing mood disorders or feeling down again during difficult moments or in times of stress.

It is scientifically proven that SPSP helps if you are depressed, whether or not you suffer from personality disorders.

Who is SPSP-50 intended for?

SPSP-50 is an effective treatment if personality disorders are a priority and your mood issues and vulnerable parts of your personality appear to be intermingled.

SPSP-50 is **not** an effective treatment if you:

- Suffer from major psychosocial problems. In other words, if your main issues are not only psychological, but also social. For example, if you do not have a permanent or temporary address, or you have major financial difficulties.
- If you suffer from addiction.
- If you suffer from severe depression.
- If you frequently contemplate suicide.
- If you have a bipolar disorder.
- If you are suffering from psychosis.
- If you have so many advantages from your problems, such as support, attention, benefits, that you prefer to remain ill as opposed to wanting to recover. We call this secondary gain.

What happens in SPSP-50?

The main goal at the start of the treatment is to build a good relationship with your therapist. This is why you will meet twice a week during the first four months of treatment. Together, you will explore your mood disorders and how you experience them. Together, you will also explore whether your symptoms are related to what is going on in your life. After a while you will feel at ease and you will little by little begin to feel the change.

Next, you and your therapist will explore the impact of the main relationships you have with others and whether there are any patterns in how your mood disorders emerge or persist. You do this based on examples of recent true-life situations that have triggered a lot of feelings in you. Together with your therapist, you will explore the possibilities of changing your feelings, your thoughts and your behaviour. This phase of the treatment often leads to a shift in the topics you talk about. First, you will still talk about the situation in your life and the patterns in relationships with others. As time passes, the focus will shift to the relationship you have with yourself and how you take care of yourself.

At the end, you will talk about the treatment and about how you will move on once the treatment has stopped. It is about how to recognise in time if things take a turn for the worse again, and what you can do in that case. If the treatment stops, so will your contact with your therapist. This may occasionally trigger strong emotions. This is something which you will also discuss together.

How long will the treatment be?

An SPSP-50 treatment consists of 50 individual, one-to-one sessions. Each session takes 45 minutes. The treatment covers a period of nine months up to one year.

- For the first 16 weeks, you will meet up with your therapist twice a week, for a total of 32 sessions.
- For the other weeks, you will meet up with your therapist once a week, for a total of 18 sessions.

Publications

- Driessen, E., Van, H.L., Don, F.J., Peen, J., Kool, S., Westra, D., et al. (2013). The efficacy of Cognitive Behavioral Therapy and Psychodynamic Therapy in the outpatient treatment of major depression: a randomized clinical trial. *American Journal of Psychiatry* (170) 1041–1050.
- De Jonghe, F.E.R.E.R. (2005). *Kort en Krachtig [transl. Short and Sweet]*. Amsterdam: Benecke N.I.
- De Jonghe F, Hendriksen M, van Aalst G, Kool S, Peen J, Van R, van den Eijnden E, Dekker J. Psychotherapy alone and combined with pharmacotherapy in the treatment of depression. *Br J Psychiatry* 2004; 185: 37- 45.
- De Jonghe, F.E.R.E.R., de Maat, S., Van, H.L., Hendriksen, M., Kool, S., van Aalst, G., Schoevers, R.A., & Dekker, J. (2013). Short-term Psychoanalytic Supportive Psychotherapy for depressed patients. *Psychoanalytic Inquiry*, in Press.

Costs

For all adults (18 years or over), treatment at the NPI is covered by the Healthcare Insurance Act. You will need Dutch health insurance for this. Payment is then handled via the health insurer. A general excess applies. You pay this excess each year to your health insurer on all care needed that year. The government decides the level of this excess on an annual basis.

Privacy

The NPI protects your privacy as regulated by law. It means that we keep information about you and your treatment secure and do not share it with others unless you have given your consent. We adhere to Arkin's privacy regulations. These regulations outline the rules by which our employees are bound when it comes to handling personal data and medical files.

You can read the privacy regulations here: <https://arkin.nl/documents/2023/07/Privacyreglement-Arkin-2023.pdf>. You can also request a copy from our secretariat by calling +31 (0) 20 590 4700.

Contact

If you are interested in treatment from the NPI, first discuss this with your GP or treatment provider. They can refer you to us. You can only make an appointment for an intake, an introductory meeting, if you have a letter of referral from your GP or therapist.

If you have any questions about the registration or if you would like to schedule an appointment for the intake, please call Arkin's Central Registration (the NPI is part of Arkin): +31 (0) 88 505 12 02. Another option is for your GP or treatment provider to register you with Arkin for treatment at the NPI.

If you are the referring physician, please contact Arkin's Central Registration on weekdays from 8.30 to 17.00 via telephone number +31 (0) 590 55 55 for registrations, peer consultation and any questions you may have.

If you are an Arkin treatment provider, please contact the Consultation and Registration Team (CAT). More information is available at <https://www.npispécialist.nl/voor-verwijzers/consultatie-expertise-en-second-opinion/>.