

Fig. 3 Outcome in relation to strength of treatment.

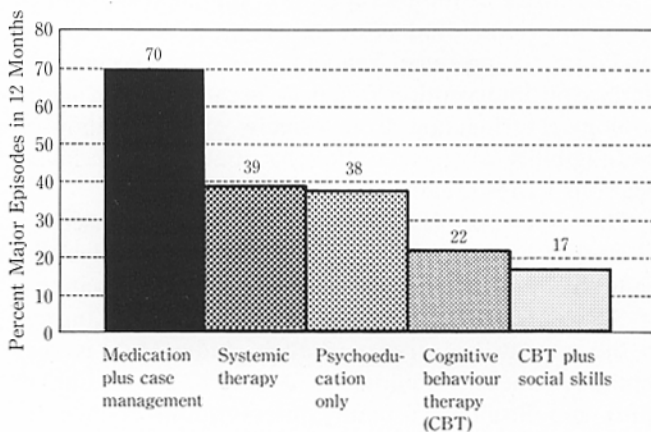


Fig. 4 Outcome in relation to therapeutic strategy.

therapy amounts to 0.87 compared to 0.31 in the control groups.

Our studies¹² as well as Falloon's meta-analysis demonstrate that modified family interaction (i.e. low-EE interaction as described before) along with improved crisis management constitute the core elements in the efficacy of family intervention.

Conclusions and Future Directions

Family interventions based on behavioral therapy have proved to be effective in preventing relapse and rehospitalization of schizophrenic patients. Meta-analyses based on a small number of studies do not clearly reflect the degree of efficacy with respect to the family burden. Given the close association between treatment stringency and treatment gains it seems only logical that the treatment of patients suffering from schizophrenia duly include family members and other carers on a broader and well-structured basis.

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