

Treatment of Agoraphobia Experiment

An experiment was done with patients suffering from agoraphobia (the fear of going out in public places). There are three factors of interest; drug (a selective serotonin reuptake inhibitor (SSRI) e.g. Prozac, a tricyclic antidepressant e.g. Elavil, an anti-anxiety e.g. Xanax and Placebo – offered as a new drug for agoraphobia), type of psychotherapy (psychodynamic, cognitive/behavioral, and group), and depression (yes/no). The experimenters were able to assign 3 depressed and 3 non-depressed agoraphobics to each of the 12 combinations of the drug and type of psychotherapy. After 6 months the severity of agoraphobia was measured for each subject (maximum score 30, minimum score 0).

Response: Severity of agoraphobia (0 to 30 scale)

Conditions:

Factor 1: Drug – Prozac, Elavil, Xanax and Placebo

Factor 2: Psychotherapy – Psychodynamic, Cog/Beh, Group

Factor 3: Depression – Yes, No

Experimental material: 72 patients with agoraphobia.

Data:

		Prozac	Elavil	Xanax	Placebo
Psychodynamic	Not Depressed	11	13	18	21
		12	10	19	24
		7	11	20	21
	Depressed	10	11	16	18
		8	7	14	18
		8	8	13	21
Cognitive Behavioral	Not Depressed	8	10	12	19
		9	11	13	16
		11	12	11	16
	Depressed	9	13	8	17
		12	13	10	16
		10	16	12	15
Group	Not Depressed	14	15	20	11
		11	13	19	13
		10	11	19	15
	Depressed	12	11	16	10
		9	11	17	10
		8	14	18	13

Treatment of Agoraphobia Experiment Plots of Factor Means and Interaction Plots



