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**Mindfulness Interventions in Medical Education: A Systematic Review of their Impact on
Medical Student Stress, Depression, Fatigue and Burnout**

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Conflict of Interest.

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

Mindfulness Interventions in Medical Education: A Systematic Review of their Impact on Undergraduate Medical Student Stress, Depression, Fatigue and Burnout

Keywords: MBI, meditation, medicine, medical students

Abstract

Introduction. Mindfulness-based interventions (MBIs) have gained popularity in medical education. A systematic review was conducted to determine the effectiveness of MBIs for reducing psychological distress in undergraduate medical students.

Methods. A search protocol was conducted using online databases Embase, PubMed, PsycINFO, and MEDLINE. Articles were required to meet the following criteria to be included: (1) describe a MBI or use of mindfulness exercises as part of an intervention, (2) include at least one of: stress, burnout, fatigue or depression, as an outcome, (3) include quantitative outcomes, and (4) published in English in a peer-reviewed journal.

Results. 12 articles were reviewed. Seven studies reported improvements in at least one targeted outcome. Four of seven studies exploring the impact on stress reported improvements. Five articles studying depression reported reductions. One study exploring burnout reported a decrease on a single subscale. Only one study measured the impact on fatigue (no change reported). Half of studies reviewed included predominantly female samples.

Conclusions. Mixed evidence was found for the use of MBIs for reducing psychological distress in undergraduate medical students. Future work should aim to clarify the impact of mindfulness on burnout and fatigue, and explore the replicability of improvements in male medical students alone.

Introduction

In the pursuit of a career in medicine, medical students are at increased risk of stress (Abdulghani et al., 2011), fatigue (Tanaka et al., 2008), burnout (Almeida et al., 2016) and depression than the general population, with 14.3% of these students meeting the diagnostic criteria for moderate to severe depression (Schwenk, Davis, and Wimsatt, 2010). Abdulghani and colleagues (2011) found that stress in medical students could be predicted by having worries about the future, lack of acceptance and self-blame. Such predictors and their detrimental effects may be mediated through the use of mindfulness training, as illustrated in the following review.

Medical schools have started to introduce mindfulness and mindfulness-based interventions (MBIs) into their curricula (e.g. Monash University, Australia). Others use MBIs and mindfulness as an optional support tool, with the intention of managing and preventing psychological distress, and providing students with practical tools to cope in more adaptive ways (for detailed reviews of mindfulness in medical schools, see Dobkin and Hutchinson, 2013 and Dobkin and Hassed, 2016). Mindfulness is a quality of consciousness, characterized by non-judgmental focused awareness of present moment experiences, thoughts and emotions (Brown & Ryan, 2003). This can be cultivated with systematic training and practice, primarily through meditation. Mindfulness can reduce the impact of stressors such as medical training by cultivating a heightened self-awareness of thoughts, helping to counter behaviours such as rumination (which often precedes and co-occurs with depression; Brown, Davis, LaRocco, and Strasburger, 2010) and thus the ability to engage in appropriate self-care activities, as well as to make more reasoned judgements on coping with day to day stressors (Dobkin and Hutchinson, 2013).

Several studies have identified the benefits of mindfulness within the medical profession. For example, one study indicated a reduction in serum cortisol as a result of mindfulness training (Turakitwanakan, Mekseepralard and Busarakumtragul, 2013) suggesting that it can reduce stress and distress, as well as reduce the risk of diseases arising from stress. Similarly, a breadth of evidence exists for the use of mindfulness training outside of the medical profession, particularly in the case of depression (e.g. Ma and Teasdale, 2004; Mason and Hargreaves, 2001; Rohan, 2003). As a result of this evidence, mindfulness training is now recommended by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (2009) for those with recurrent depression, implying its effectiveness.

To our knowledge, only one systematic review has been published identifying controlled trials of stress management interventions for medical students (Shiralkar, Harris, Eddins-Folensbee and Coverdale, 2013). This identified a number of interventions, including mindfulness training, self-hypnosis, and educational discussion, and changes within the medical curriculum itself. However, no previous reviews have provided a synthesized assessment of current knowledge of the impact of MBIs on undergraduate medical student wellbeing, including depression, stress, burnout (as characterised by ‘physical, mental, and emotional exhaustion as a result of long-term involvement in emotionally demanding situations’; Pines and Aronson, 1988), and fatigue (characterised by extreme tiredness). The onset of burnout is gradual and cumulative, whereas fatigue presents with faster onset, and can arise as a result of exposure to single events (Figley, 2002). This review, therefore, is a systematic evaluation of MBIs for undergraduate medical students that aims to answer the following question: Are mindfulness-based interventions effective for preventing and/or reducing depression, stress, burnout, and fatigue in medical students?

Methods

Data Sources and Search Strategy

A systematic search was conducted to identify studies that describe the use of MBIs for depression, stress, burnout, and fatigue in undergraduate medical students. A literature search was conducted for articles published from October 1996 to the 10th of November, 2016 in Embase, PubMed, PsycINFO, and MEDLINE, as well as from references cited in review articles. The search strategy was based on using combinations of the following keywords: mindfulness, stress, depression, burnout, fatigue, psychological distress, medical school and medical students. Mindfulness interventions were defined as those that employed mindfulness exercises, including mindfulness meditation, mindful body scan or acceptance-based practices.

Inclusion and Exclusion Criteria

To be considered for full review, articles had to meet the following inclusion criteria: 1) describe a MBI or the use of mindfulness exercises as part of an intervention, 2) include at least one of depression, stress, burnout, or fatigue as an outcome, 3) include quantitative outcomes, and 4) be published in English in a peer-reviewed journal. Articles describing single-participant case studies were not considered for review due to their limited generalizability.

Identification of Relevant Studies and Data Extraction

Both authors conducted article screenings from November 2016 to January 2017. Potential articles were first screened by article title and then by abstract. Relevant articles were then reviewed in full for final consideration of inclusion in the review. Both authors extracted study details from the reviewed articles.

Figure 1. Flow chart search strategy.

*****Insert Figure 1 here*****

Assessment of Quality

Each study was assessed for quality using the Effective Public Health Practice Project Quality Assessment Tool (EPHPP) independently by both authors. This contains 21 items designed to

assess the internal validity and interpretability of trials, and demonstrates fair inter-rater agreement for individual domains and excellent agreement for the final grade (Armijo-Olivo, Stiles, Hagen, Biondo, and Cummings, 2012) as well as content and construct validity (Jackson and Waters, 2005). The tool assesses quantitative research papers on the domains of: selection bias, study design, confounders, blinding, data collection method, and withdrawals/dropout, each rated as strong, moderate, or weak. Parameters to interpret results indicate that studies with no weak ratings are considered *strong*, with one weak rating considered *moderate*, and with two or more weak ratings considered *weak*. After each reviewer completed the quality assessments of each article using both tools, reviewers met to record their findings. Any discrepancies in quality ratings were resolved by discussion.

Results

Included and Excluded Articles

As of 10th November, 2016, our search protocol yielded a total of 831 articles (136 duplicates subsequently removed). After initial screening of titles and abstracts, 685 articles were excluded because they were not relevant to the current review topic (n= 660), had no full-text available (n=12), were dissertations (n=1), and were conference abstracts (n=2). A total of 10 articles were reviewed in full, with two additional articles identified from the reference sections of the retained articles.

*****Insert Table 1 – study characteristics, sample characteristics and empirical findings*****

Intervention Characteristics

Table 1 presents study characteristics, sample characteristics, and findings of studies included in this review. All studies identified volunteers willing to take part in the research, rather than implementing interventions to whole classes on a compulsory basis. Characteristics targeted by interventions in the studies were depression, with measures including the Depression, Anxiety and Stress scale, the Beck Depression Inventory, the General Health Questionnaire, and the Symptom Checklist-90-Revised (Shapiro et al., 1998; Garneau et al., 2013; Hassed et al., 2008; Phang et al., 2015; Chen et al., 2016), stress, with measures including Cohen's perceived Stress Scale in four studies, the Depression, Anxiety and Stress scale, used in two studies, the Perceived Medical School Stress scale in one study (Bond et al., 2013; Chen et al., 2016; Danilewitz et al., 2016; de Vibe et al., 2013; Garneau et al., 2013; Phang et al., 2015; Warnecke et al., 2011), and burnout, as measured by the Maslach Burnout Inventory in three studies (Barbosa et al., 2013; de Vibe et al., 2013; Garneau et al., 2013). Despite the fact that these interventions aimed to manipulate levels of mindfulness to change the targeted outcomes, only three studies measured mindfulness prior to and after the intervention (Danilewitz et al., 2016; de Vibe et al., 2013; Garneau et al., 2013). No work could be found exploring the effects of mindfulness on fatigue specifically in medical students. One study, however, did measure fatigue as a subscale on the Profile of Mood States (POMS; Rosenzweig et al., 2003).

Intervention designs included randomized controlled trial (33.3%), non-randomised controlled trial (8.3%) and pre-test post-test designs (58.3%). Interventions used a variety of

multimodal approaches to implement mindfulness training. 83.3% of studies included full or adapted versions of mindfulness-based stress reduction (MBSR) in conjunction with other mind-body exercises (Barbosa et al., 2013; Bond et al., 2013; Danilewitz et al., 2016; de Vibe et al., 2013; Garneau et al., 2013; Jain et al., 2007; Rosenzweig et al., 2003; Shapiro et al., 1998), with the remaining studies utilizing mindfulness-based cognitive therapy (MBCT; Phang et al., 2015), interventions with mindfulness integrated (Chen et al., 2016; Hassed et al., 2009) and CD- or DVD-delivered interventions (Phang et al., 2015; Warnecke et al., 2011).

Intervention Effects

All studies utilized medical student participants. Only three studies made reference to the mental status of their participants. Two studies excluded medical students based on the following criteria: prescription of psychiatric medications within the past two months or with plans to discontinue medication during the study (Barbosa et al., 2013), and a score of 30 or more on the K10 screening tool for psychological distress, indicating an increased risk of meeting criteria for an anxiety or depressive disorder (Warnecke et al., 2011). One study (Phang et al., 2015) screened students for severe depression, identifying 8% of their sample meeting the criteria, who they directed to appropriate mental health services, but did not exclude as their broad inclusion criteria were developed for better generalizability of the results.

Stress. Of the seven studies reporting on stress, four reported improvements (Danilewitz et al., 2016; Garneau et al., 2013; Phang et al., 2015; Warnecke et al., 2011), two reported no change (Bond et al., 2013; de Vibe et al., 2013), and one, which took measures one year apart, reported an increase in stress (Chen et al., 2016). Only Bond et al. (2013) reported effect sizes. Of the four reporting reductions in stress, two interventions were delivered via multimedia (CD or DVD).

Depression. Of the nine papers reporting on depression, five studies reported significant reductions in depression (Garneau et al., 2013 ; Hassed et al., 2008; Jain et al., 2007; Phang et al., 2015; Shapiro et al., 1998), with Rosenzweig et al. (2003) reporting improvement in total mood disturbance as measured by the POMS (total score from Tension–Anxiety, Depression–Dejection, Anger–Hostility, Vigor–Activity, Fatigue–Inertia, and Confusion–Bewilderment subscales) but not on the subscale of Depression–Dejection. Two further studies reported smaller sample sizes than studies reporting improvement (20 and 66, respectively) and no significant changes in depression (Chen et al., 2016; Warnecke et al., 2011).

Burnout. Only three studies reported on the effects of mindfulness on burnout in medical students (Barbosa et al., 2013; de Vibe et al., 2013; Garneau et al., 2013). Of these, two reported no significant reductions in burnout, whilst the third reported significant improvement on the Maslach Burnout Inventory subscale of emotional exhaustion.

Fatigue. No studies were found that specifically explored the impact of mindfulness training on fatigue. Rosenzweig et al. (2003) studied the effects of mindfulness on fatigue as a subscale of the POMS (Fatigue-Inertia), finding no significant change as a result of mindfulness training.

Quality of Studies

The studies ranged from weak to strong on the EPHPP scale. Two studies were of strong quality (Shapiro et al., 1998; Warnecke et al., 2011), six were of moderate quality (Barbosa et al., 2013; de Vibe et al., 2013; Garneau et al., 2013; Hassed et al., 2009; Jain et al., 2007; Phang et al., 2015), and four were considered weak (Bond et al., 2013; Chen et al., 2016; Danilewitz et al., 2011; Rosenzweig et al., 2003). For most studies, it was difficult to establish the extent to which participants in the included studies had been blinded, though due to the nature of therapeutic interventions, it is acknowledged that this can be difficult. Those delivering interventions and researchers collecting data were blinded in two studies (Phang et al., 2015; Warnecke et al., 2011). Warnecke and colleagues (2011) were also able to blind those administering the therapy because the intervention was provided electronically. Five articles reported measures of at least one key outcome for more than 85% of participants (Bond et al., 2013; de Vibe et al., 2013; Phang et al., 2015; Rosenzweig et al., 2003; Shapiro et al., 1998) and seven articles presented results of between-group statistical comparisons (Barbosa et al., 2013; Chen et al., 2016; Danilewitz et al., 2016; Jain et al., 2007; de Vibe et al., 2013; Phang et al., 2015; Shapiro et al., 1998).

Eight studies did not report comprehensive sample characteristics that included participant age, gender, and ethnicity (e.g. Bond et al., 2013; Chen et al., 2016; Danilewitz et al., 2016). Of the eight studies reporting gender, six samples consisted of at least 73% female (Barbosa et al., 2013; Danilewitz et al., 2016; Garneau et al., 2013; Jain et al., 2007; de Vibe et al., 2013; Phang et al., 2015). These limitations may compromise the generalizability of the findings to males. Similarly, only three studies measured changes in mindfulness, each of which studied stress (Danilewitz et al., 2016), stress and burnout (de Vibe et al., 2013), and stress, burnout and

depression (Garneau et al., 2013). It is therefore difficult to establish to what extent positive changes seen in other studies are attributable to improvements in mindfulness.

Discussion

This systematic review aimed to establish whether MBIs are effective for preventing and/or reducing depression, stress, burnout and fatigue in medical students. Fifty-seven percent of studies reporting on stress demonstrated significant reductions, 67% of those studying depression found significant reductions following engagement in an MBI, and one of three studies reported reductions in burnout. The findings in this review provide mixed support for the use of MBIs to manage and prevent stress and depression, but not for burnout or fatigue. No studies were identified exploring the impact of mindfulness on fatigue specifically, although one study identified no change on the fatigue subscale in the POMS inventory.

Though the results of this review were mixed, the importance of managing the mental health of medical students is highlighted by a recent meta-analysis demonstrating a global prevalence of depression in 28% of medical students, with the highest rates in first year undergraduate students (Puthran, Zhang, Tam and Ho, 2016). In turn, this translates to higher rates of suicide ideation amongst medical students; one large study reported a prevalence of 11.2% (Dyrbye, Thomas and Massie, 2008). Evidence suggests that those with higher levels of depression and stress display poorer outcomes overall, including in academic performance, medical error, increased cynicism, and reduced empathy (Dyrbye, Thomas and Shanafelt, 2006). Mindfulness training in medical education has shown variable efficacy with regard to its effects on depression and stress, and further rigorous study is required to establish its efficacy, alongside longitudinal follow-up and assessment of its impact on suicidal ideation, academic performance, cynicism and empathy. Other stress management options should also be explored in conjunction with mindfulness, such as social support, so as to optimize outcomes.

Few studies explored the relationship between mindfulness and burnout and fatigue. Those that did study these relationships included large sample sizes (288 participants in one study, 302 in another), and highlighted no significant impact. Such a lack of evidence could be as a result of mindfulness only recently being introduced as an intervention in medical schools. As stress and depression are the most prevalent risks in medical students and can lead to both burnout and fatigue (Shapiro et al., 2007), these were naturally first to trial (Abdulghani et al., 2011; Schwenk, Davis

and Wimsatt, 2010). Previous work suggests that mindfulness improves burnout in healthcare professionals (Goodman and Schorling, 2012). It is therefore reasonable to hypothesise that mindfulness would improve/prevent burnout in medical students. Similarly, whilst de Vibe et al. (2013) conducted a randomized controlled trial to measure burnout, the study by Rosenzweig and colleagues (2003), measuring fatigue, was a non-randomized trial with sample characteristics not reported. We conclude that further high quality and well controlled trials that report comprehensive sample characteristics are needed to establish the efficacy of mindfulness for fatigue and burnout.

Of the eight studies reporting gender, six included predominantly female samples, consisting of at least 73% female. This presents an issue when considering generalisability. Research suggests that there exist gender differences in emotion regulation, with males more likely to ‘externalise’ their distress (e.g. through sport), and females more likely to ‘internalise’ it (e.g. through rumination; Li, DiGiuseppe, and Froh, 2006). Given that an aim of mindfulness is to reduce ruminative tendencies, this may be a more advantageous coping technique for females. Similarly, evidence from previous intervention studies with mindfulness components have demonstrated gender differences, with women reporting greater reductions in anxiety (Chen, Comerford, Shinnick, and Ziedonic, 2010) and negative affect (Rojiani, Santoyo, Rahrig, Roth, and Britton, 2017). Females also demonstrate larger increases in mindfulness (Rojiani, Santoyo, Rahrig, Roth, and Britton, 2017) and express preferences for mindfulness interventions (Katz and Toner, 2013). All of this points towards divergent responses to mindfulness training, with females displaying greater benefit, and suggests that the positive results demonstrated in those studies included in this review are confounded by characteristics (specifically gender) of the samples studied. As such, further research should aim to establish the extent to which these improvements following mindfulness training are replicable in male samples.

To our knowledge, this is the first review of mindfulness-based interventions for medical students, specifically exploring four key aspects of psychological health that are prevalent in this population (stress, depression, fatigue and burnout). In summary, the literature reviewed suggests that mindfulness can reduce stress and depression in medical students, though there are some inconsistencies between studies. The incorporation of a mindfulness program in medical schools could be beneficial, as this would offer another way to help reduce stress and depression in medical students, perhaps leading to an overall increase in empathy (Shapiro, Schwartz, and Bonner, 1998). Results should be interpreted and generalized cautiously due to the small number of studies

included in the review, as well as limitations within individual studies. It is clear, however, that although more research is needed; the evidence base surrounding mindfulness training for medical students is growing, and new systems are being developed for the prevention and management of stress, depression, fatigue and burnout. The evidence reviewed suggests that implementing mindfulness interventions during undergraduate medical training may allow for its development over time, and improved mental health and wellbeing, thus better preparing students for careers in medicine.

Limitations

Despite the rigorous search criteria adopted in this review, there are limitations. Relevant literature may have been excluded, for example from theses and conference proceedings, as well as in other languages. Methodological differences between the included studies may have also limited the generalisability of the results. Four different measures were used to assess depression, and three for the measurement of stress, each of which may hold different definitions of the outcomes measured, as well as different cut off points for scores. All three studies measuring burnout, however, had the advantage of using the same measure, allowing for more accurate comparison.

According to the EPHPP quality assessment, four of the studies reviewed were deemed to be of weak quality, whilst six were moderate and only two considered strong. There is therefore a need for more high-quality trials within this field. The small number of studies included in this review, their predominantly female samples, and the often self-referring nature of studies of mindfulness training mean that conclusions drawn are preliminary. As such, qualitative literature reviews are recommended, as well as much more work on the efficacy of mindfulness for medical students, particularly in the areas of burnout and fatigue in order to establish more definitive conclusions.

Conclusions

Results of this review suggest that MBIs hold promise for some aspects of medical students' psychological wellbeing. There exists, however, conflicting evidence for this, as well as a number of gaps in the literature that should be explored, such as the efficacy of MBIs for fatigue and burnout. The literature base on mindfulness in medical education is in its infancy. One of the benefits of this review is the ability to provide suggestions for future, high quality work. Future

work should use rigorous protocols, with larger samples, as well as the use of comparisons with other interventions (as opposed to waitlist controls alone) to examine comparative efficacy.

Exploring different methods of delivery of MBIs in medical school, such as CDs and DVDs, as utilized by two studies in this review, is supported for its accessibility. However, tracking engagement with this method is also warranted in future studies. Future research should also explore the impact of mindfulness training across years of study to establish whether training should be delivered at set points, depending on the curriculum and student need/demand, for optimum efficacy. We do, however, acknowledge that this will differ across medical schools and approaches to curriculum design, and therefore suggest that individual medical schools have their own evidence-based implementation plan. Further, assessing the long-term effects of MBIs, including regular follow-up, would contribute to clarification of the extent of the maintenance of changes seen upon completion of an intervention.

Declaration of Interest

The authors report no declarations of interest.

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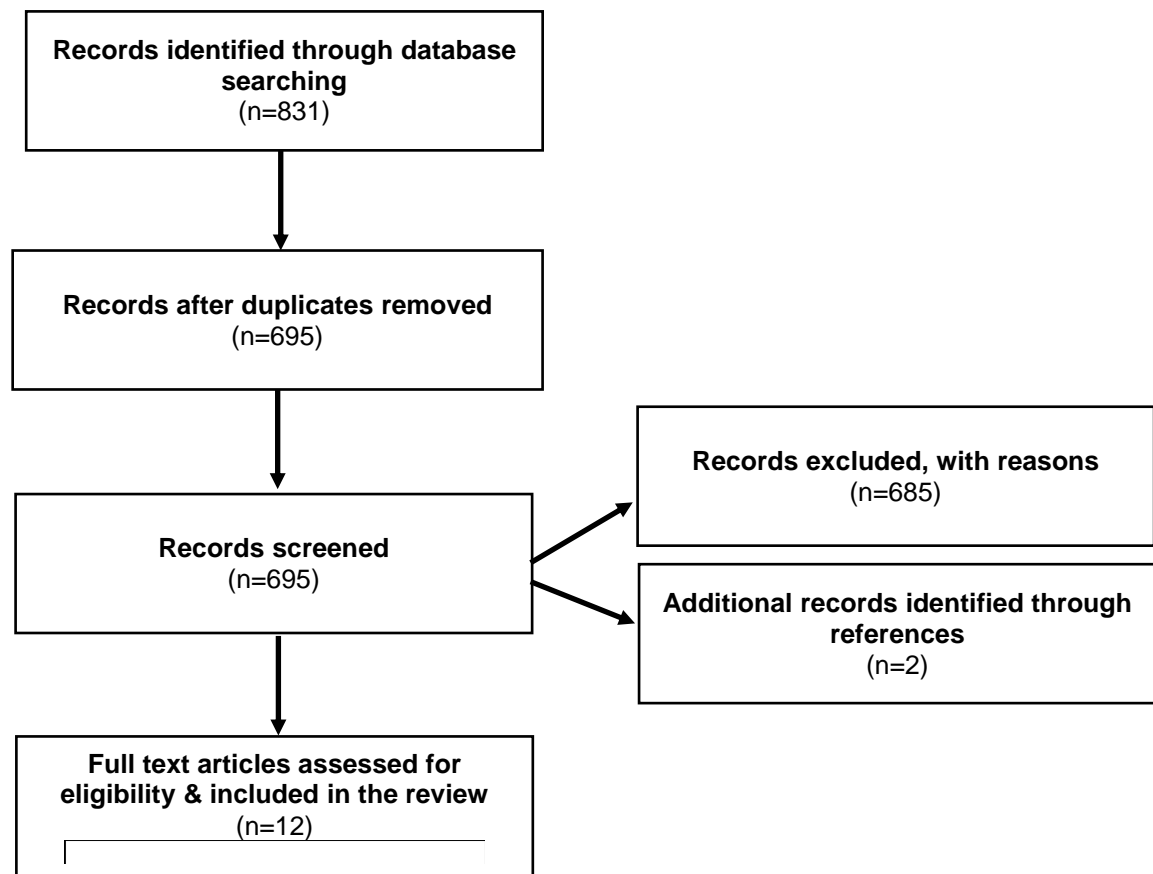


Figure 1. Flow Chart Search Strategy.

Table 1. Study characteristics, sample characteristics and empirical findings

| Study | N | Sample Characteristics | Research Design | Intervention Modality/ Length | Mindfulness Components | Results (<i>p</i> values and effect sizes where available) | Quality Assessment (EPHPP) |
|-----------------------------|----|--|--|--|--|--|----------------------------|
| Barbosa et al., 2013 | 28 | Age: MBSR 26.6; control 24.6 Gender: MBSR 92.3% female; control 93.3% female Ethnicity: MBSR 61.5% European white, 38.5% Asian American; control 53.3% Asian American, 40% European white, 6.7% mixed | Pre-test - post-test: MBSR (n=13) vs. control (n=15) | MBSR; 2.5h/week + 8 hour silent day-long retreat in week 6; 8 weeks | Body scans, mindful movement, mindful hatha yoga, sitting meditation, mindful awareness of daily routines, pleasant and unpleasant events and communication | No significant reduction in burnout (<i>p</i> value not reported) | Moderate |
| Bond et al., 2013 | 27 | Age: Not reported Gender: Not reported Ethnicity: Not reported | Pre-test – post-test, no control | MBSR - once weekly: 1.5h session. Yoga and mindfulness + 30 minute lecture about neuroscience of yoga, relaxation and breathing exercises. | Yoga postures Breathing techniques Meditation Stress management techniques Endure and not react to sensory experiences i.e muscular fatigue/discomfort | Intervention did not significantly reduce perceived stress (<i>p</i> =0.70, <i>d</i> =0.14) | Weak |

| | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------|-----|---|--|---|---|--|----------|
| Chen et al., 2016 | 20 | Age: Not reported Gender: Not reported Ethnicity: Not reported | Pre-test – post-test: Mind-Body Medicine (MBM, n=13) vs. control (n=7) | MBM; 11-week elective course | Meditation, guided imagery, journal writing | Intervention increased perceived stress ($p<0.05$) Control group increased depression ($p<0.05$). Intervention did not significantly alter depression ($p>0.05$). | Weak |
| Danilewitz et al., 2016 | 30 | Age: Not reported Gender: 73.3% female Ethnicity: Not reported | Pre-test – post-test feasibility study with waitlist control | MBSR: 1-1.5 hour sessions; 8 weeks Home meditation records were provided for informal practice | Body scan, raisin exercise, awareness of breath, yoga, walking meditation, loving kindness meditation, sitting meditation | Intervention reduced stress ($p=0.019$, $d=0.33$). Intervention did not reduce depression (no p value reported, $d=0.02$) | Weak |
| de Vibe et al., 2013 | 288 | Age: 23.8 ± 5.2 Gender: 76% female Ethnicity: Not reported | RCT: intervention (n=144), control (n=144) | MBSR: adapted to six weekly 1.5 hour sessions with a 6-hour session in week seven; 8 weeks | Physical and mental exercises increasing mindfulness, didactic teaching on mindfulness, stress, stress management and mindful communication | No significant reduction on student stress ($p=0.021$, did not reach significance using a Bonferroni-corrected alpha level of 0.0125) or burnout ($p=0.204$) | Moderate |

| | | | | | Reflections on practising mindfulness | | |
|-----------------------------|-----|---|--|---|--|---|----------|
| Garneau et al., 2013 | 58 | Age: 26 Gender: 74% female Ethnicity: 50% Caucasian, 50% Asian/Middle-Eastern/other (not specified) | Pre-test – post-test: Mindfulness-Based Medical Practice course (no control) | Mindfulness-Based Medical Practice course (based on MBSR) 2.5hrs twice/week for four weeks, silent retreat day (six hours). CDs for home practice. | Body scan, sitting meditation, yoga, meditation w/ imagery, home practice exercises, group discussions on integration into daily life. | Depression significantly reduced ($p=0.001$). Stress significantly reduced ($p=.026$). Burnout subscale of emotional exhaustion significantly reduced ($p=.001$). | Moderate |
| Hassed et al., 2009 | 148 | Age: 18.77 ± 1.10 Gender: Not reported Ethnicity: 56.1% identified as Australian, 43.9% from various countries mostly in the Asia-Pacific region | Pre-test – post-test: Health Enhancement Program (no control) | Health Enhancement Program (HEP) Eight lectures overviewing HEP six 2-hour tutorials including one hour on the stress release program (MBSR) and 1 hour on essence elements (Lifestyle) | Mindfulness practices, related cognitive strategies, raise awareness to underpinning stress, negative emotions and poor performance | Depression significantly reduced ($p=0.01$) | Moderate |
| Jain et al., 2007 | 81 | Age: 25 (range 18-61) Gender: 81.5% female Ethnicity: 63% white, 16% Hispanic, 4.9% | RCT: Mindfulness meditation (MM) (n=27) vs. Somatic relaxation (SR) | Mindfulness Meditation: Based on MBSR, 4 x 1.5hr sessions. Tapes, manuals, and homework tasks assigned. | Body scan, sitting meditation, Hatha yoga, walking meditation, | Significantly lower post-test Daily Emotion Report for Distraction ($p<.004$, $d=.25$) & trend towards | Moderate |

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| | | Native American, 7.4% Asian/Pacific Islander, 2.5% Mixed Race, 6.2% not reported | (n=24) vs. control (n=30) | Somatic Relaxation: length not identified. Included progressive muscle relaxation, guided imagery, & breathing techniques. | loving-kindness meditation. | significance in Rumination ($p=.06$, $d=.57$) (reflective of depression) in MM group compared to SR & control groups. | |
| Phang et al., 2015 | 76 | Age: Mindful-Gym 20.91 ± 1.15 ; control 20.94 ± 1.17 Gender: Mindful-Gym 76% female; control 82% female Ethnicity: Mindful-Gym 50% Chinese, 42% Malay, 8% Indian; control 37% Chinese, 55% Malay, 8% Indian | RCT: Mindful-Gym DVD (n=38) vs. control (n=38) | DVD delivered mindfulness adapted from MBSR and MBCT; 5 weeks | Mindful Body Stretching and Relaxation Mindful Breathing Imagery Gratitude Body Scan Loving Kindness | Intervention reduced perceived stress ($p=0.006$) and depression ($p=0.003$) | Moderate |
| Rosenzweig et al., 2003 | 302 | Age: Not reported Gender: Not reported Ethnicity: Not reported | Prospective, non-randomized, controlled trial | 10 week MBSR: 90 minute contact time weekly, including audiocassette, 20 min formal meditation daily | Body scans, breath awareness, mindful stretching, eating, meditation, walking | Significantly lower total mood disturbances scores but no significant change in subscales of depression ($p=0.09$, $d=0.07$) | Weak |

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| | | | | | meditation, guided imagery | or fatigue ($p=0.50$, $d=0.49$) | |
| Shapiro et al., 1998 | 73 | Age: Not reported Gender: 56.2% female Ethnicity: 79% Caucasian; 8% Hispanic; 5% Indian; 3% African American; 3% Asian American | Pre-test – post-test: Stress Reduction and Relaxation (n=36) vs. control (n=37) | MBSR: 2.5h/week and weekly home practice with daily journals; 7 weeks | Sitting Meditation, Body scan, Hatha yoga, loving kindness and forgiveness meditation | Intervention reduced depression ($p<0.006$) | Strong |
| Warnecke et al., 2011 | 66 | Age: 23 ± 3.2 Gender: 64.6% female Ethnicity: Not reported | RCT: Audio guided mindfulness (n=32) vs. control (n=34) | Audio-guided mindfulness; 30 min/day; 8 weeks | Mindfulness meditations; no further detail reported | Intervention group reduced perceived stress ($p=0.05$) No significant reductions in depression ($p>0.05$) | Strong |