

LESSONS LEARNED FROM COLLABORATIVE STUDIES ABOUT EVIDENCE FOR THE NIJMEGEN TREATMENT PROTOCOLS

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So far most national and international intercentre studies had a retrospective design. However, an important limitation of intercentre retrospective comparisons is that it does not allow identification of a single element of the treatment protocol responsible for a certain advantageous or disadvantageous outcome.

Nevertheless since the mid-eighties of the last century these type of studies have fostered a collaborative spirit that facilitated joint working on the development of prospective studies, measurement instruments, and the formulation of new research questions and ideas. The speaker participated in several collaborative studies, both retrospective and prospective, which brought the team in Nijmegen new evidence to base their treatment protocols on and also provided a scientific basis for important changes in the protocol.