

On the other hand, our paper also shows that proper implementation in clinical care depends on personnel and organisational factors that need to be addressed in a coherent and persistent way before meaningful results can be obtained. The implementation of a randomised controlled trial has its particular challenges, but so does changing clinical practice in and of itself.⁴ As researchers, we may sometimes underestimate this gap between scientific evidence and the changes necessary in clinical practice for the implementation of evidence-based interventions. In order to reach the ultimate goal of prevention and to determine whether structured risk assessment may contribute, more studies are needed that assess the results of properly implemented and already established instruments in different forms of forensic care.

Declaration of interest

H.B., T.M. and T.W.D.P.v.O. are the department heads of the clinics where the RACE study was conducted. The study was financially supported by various sources (the University, participating mental health organisations, and national medical research council).

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