EMDR Eye Movement Therapy:

8 Phases of EMDR

HISTORY & TREATMENT PLANNING

 Gather background information about the client and symptoms Assessing for the connection of the symptoms between the past and present



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PREPARATION FOR PROCESSING

 Provide information about EMDR, answer any questions, consent

 Teaching emotion management strategies



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ASSESSMENT

 Identify event for EMDR bilateral processing and desensitization

 Assessing for baseline beliefs about self, distress level, emotions, and symptom severity prior to desensitization



DESENSITIZATION

- Interval sets of 15-30+ seconds of bilateral stimulation, through eye movement, tactile feedback, or tapping
- Client practices free association, noticing thoughts, emotions, and/or body sensations that arise during sets
- Clinician gathers feedback on symptom severity and facilitates processing assistance as needed

INSTALLATION

 Interval sets of 10-15 seconds to link a client-selected positive belief with the initial event



 Continue sets until positive belief ranks as "completely true."

BODY SCAN

- Client conducts a scan of their body from head to toe and reports any sensations
- Interval sets of 10-15 seconds until body is calm or there are neutral sensations

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CLOSURE

- Clinician invites client returns to a period of calm following processing
- If client has completed processing, then client and clinician debrief about client's experience

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RE-EVALUATE

 Additional events or memories are selected for future desensitization and closure Client and clinician check in during next session about previously processed memories



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