



, 3 & DGDSWpH GH VHPDLQHV FRQoXH VSpFL;TXHPHQW SRXU OHV DGROHVFHQWHV prédéterminés ont été établis pour évaluer la faisabilité, la validité et l'acceptabilité du modèle d'étude. Les données évaluant les changements touchant la qualité de vie, la dépression, l'anxiété, la perception de la douleur, la détresse psychologique et le cortisol salivaire ont été recueillies durant la période de 4 mois de l'étude. Résultats: Dix-neuf participantes ont participé à l'étude et leur âge moyen était de 15,8 ans (écart de 13,9 à 17,8). Le taux d'attrition était faible (17 %). L'assistance aux séances de pleine conscience (84 %) et l'observance du protocole de l'étude (100 %) étaient élevées. Toutes les participantes ont déclaré un changement positif de la façon dont elles traitaient avec la douleur. Aucun changement n'a été détecté en ce qui concerne la qualité de vie, la dépression, l'anxiété, la perception de la douleur, HW OD GpWUHV VHSV\FKRORJLTXH 'HVUpGXFWLRQV VLJQL;FDWLYHV GHV WDX[ G SOHLQH FRQVFLHQFH RQW pConclusions: La pleine conscience est une approche thérapeutique SURPHWWHXVH SRXU ODTXHOOH LO Q¶H[LVWH TXH GHV GRQQpHV OLPLWpHV SRXU Notre étude indique la faisabilité de mener ces interventions auprès d'adolescentes. Il faut un vaste essai pour démontrer O¶H^FDLWp HW OHV H†HWV ELRSK\VLRORJLTXHV GHV ,3& FKH] OHV DGROHVFHQW

Mots clés: pleine conscience, adolescente, douleur chronique, faisabilité, randomisé, pilote

### Author contributions

NC conceptualized and coordinated the study, performed data analysis, and drafted the initial manuscript. AM contributed to the design of the study, revised the protocol, taught and adapted the mindfulness-based intervention. MV and CMH revised the protocol. AD conducted cortisol analyses. PLD provided supervision and revised the mindfulness-based intervention. TML and JL revised the protocol and contributed to data analysis. NH revised the protocol and contributed to data collection. All authors contributed to data interpretation and revision of the manuscript.

### Abbreviations

- CBT Cognitive Behavioral Therapy
- MBI Mindfulness Based Intervention
- MBCT Mindfulness Based Cognitive Therapy
- MBSR Mindfulness Based Stress Reduction

### , QWURGXFWRQ

Chronic pain in adolescents is a common condition, UHVXOWLQJ LQ VLJQL;FDQW LPSDFWV RQ GHVHORSPHQW DQG OHYHO RI IXQFWLRQLQJ \$OWKRXJK GHVGHVVRQV DQG SV\FKRORJLFDO ZSHWHVGHVHQ RQV YDQV ZKHU VWXG\ FRPSDU a MBI and cognitive behavioural therapy (CBT) for adults with somatoform disorders found that the MBI, derived from a well-studied mindfulness curriculum for adults, was comparable to CBT, with more rapid improvements for patients in the MBI group (Fjorback et al., 2013). The safety of conducting MBIs in clinical populations is still being studied at this time, but many authors have suggested that MBIs are safe, provided that adequate psychological support is available (Compson, 2014). A number of studies KDYH H[SORUHGWKH ELRORJLFDO HuHFWV the use of markers such as salivary cortisol (Matousek, 'RENLQ 3UXHV VQHU 6RIDU UHGX levels have been shown in some studies, but results in ran-Qmized RwhlQd H[WaDe been inconsistent DQG early, 2¶IHLOO 'RFNUD\

a number of Buddhist traditions, most contemporary forms of mindfulness meditation that are studied in the setting of clinical research seek to promote purposeful and non-judgemental awareness of one's thoughts, feelings and sensations (Kabat-Zinn, 1991). Since the early 1980s, when it ZDV ;UVW VWXGLHG FOLQLFDOO\ LQ JURX controlled trial conducted in adults suggested that mind-IXOQHVV KDV VLJQL;FDQW ORQJ ODVWLQJ RI WKH H[SHULQH RI SDLO LQFOXGLQJ LHW\ GHVGHVVRQV DQG SV\FKRORJLFDO ZSHWHVGHVHQ RQV YDQV ZKHU VWXG\ FRPSDU a MBI and cognitive behavioural therapy (CBT) for adults with somatoform disorders found that the MBI, derived from a well-studied mindfulness curriculum for adults, was comparable to CBT, with more rapid improvements for patients in the MBI group (Fjorback et al., 2013). The safety of conducting MBIs in clinical populations is still being studied at this time, but many authors have suggested that MBIs are safe, provided that adequate psychological support is available (Compson, 2014). A number of studies KDYH H[SORUHGWKH ELRORJLFDO HuHFWV the use of markers such as salivary cortisol (Matousek, 'RENLQ 3UXHV VQHU 6RIDU UHGX levels have been shown in some studies, but results in ran-Qmized RwhlQd H[WaDe been inconsistent DQG early, 2¶IHLOO 'RFNUD\

The body of evidence concerning MBIs in adolescents is less abundant than in the adult literature, but work in the (Vadnais, 2014). Recent studies pertaining to a broad range of MBIs in youth indicate that mindfulness is a promising intervention. However, the heterogeneity of research methods used (Tan, 2013) and the lack of large-scale validation (Schonert-Reichl, 2013) are limitations. To our knowledge, no large-scale randomized study has been conducted so far. A small pilot study (n=6) evaluating a MBI in youth with chronic pain (Jastrowski Mano et al., 2013).

\* In this study, we undertook a pilot trial to estimate the feasibility, acceptability and validity of a study looking at the effectiveness of a MBI in youth with chronic pain. The study was a single-blind, randomized controlled trial. The primary outcome was psychological distress and salivary cortisol levels among participants. The study was safe and well tolerated.

## Methods

This study was approved by the Institutional Review Board from all participants and their parents. Potential advantages and disadvantages related to participation in the study were discussed with participants. The study was a single-blind, randomized controlled trial. The primary outcome was psychological distress and salivary cortisol levels among participants. The study was safe and well tolerated.

### Participants

The pilot trial was conducted at Sainte-Justine Hospital, a pediatric hospital in Montreal, Canada. Participants were referred from seven pediatric clinics: adolescent psychiatry, pain clinic, gastroenterology, neurology and rheumatology. Patients between the ages of thirteen and eighteen who were followed by a physician for a condition resulting in chronic pain of at least three months duration were considered eligible for recruitment if their home was located less than a one-hour drive from the hospital. The study was safe and well tolerated.

ideation unknown to the referral physician and intellectual limitation that could hinder study participation.

Patient screening and referral for recruitment were done by participants and their parents met with a recruiting physician (NC and NH) for a 30-minute encounter. During the encounter, the recruiting physician re-evaluated eligibility obtained consent from both the participant and her parent. Baseline data was collected after written consent was obtained from participants and parents. Recruitment was closed once a pre-determined convenient target sample size of 20 participants was reached.

### Randomization and intervention

Randomization was done using a computer-generated randomization list and permuted block design, with block sizes

The MBI consisted of eight consecutive weekly group with advanced mindfulness training and personal practice.

TXHVWLRQQDLUH ZLWK /LNHUW VFDOHV WKH 3HGLDWULF 4XDOLW\ RI  
/LIH 6FDOH 3HGV4/ GHVLJQHG IRU DGROHVFHQWV DJHV  
\HDUV &URQEDFK\ V DOSKD 9DUQL %XUZLQNOH  
Seid, 2006).

Salivary cortisol was collected using Salivette® sampling devices, which consist of a plastic sampling vessel with a suspended insert containing a sterile neutral cotton wool

VZDE 9RJHVHU 'XUQHU 6HOLJHU \$XHUQKDPPHU

Participants were questioned for oral bleeding or ulcers and were asked not to ingest any liquid or solid substances one hour prior to sampling. Swabs were placed under the tongue for 2.5 minutes and immediately returned to the insert. All samples were kept frozen until analysis at the end of the study period. Salivary cortisol was measured using

LPPXQRDVVD\ 5RFKH GLDJQRVWLFV &REDV ( )XQFWLRQ-  
DO VHQVLWLYLW\ ZDV HYDOXDWHG DQG H VWDEOLVKHG DW QPRO /  
YDULDELOLW\ FRHvFLHQW :LWKLQ UXQ YDULDELOLW\ RI WKH  
PHWKRQ ZDV DOVR YHULHG YDULDELOLW\ FRHvFLHQW

Finally, the method was validated by mass spectrometry analysis of eight selected participant specimens including the

ORZHVW VDOLYDU\ FRUWLVRO YDOXH QPRO / /LQH DU UHJUHV-  
VLRQ DQDO\VLV VKRZHG D KLJK<sup>2</sup>FRHvFLHQW RI GHWHUPLQDWLRQ U  
= 0.87).

#### Data management



&RKHQ¶V G S YDOXH  
ference was found in 17:30 cortisol levels at week one vs  
ZHHN HLJKW 7KHUH ZDV DOVR QR  
magnitude of the decrease at week one vs week eight.

LPE URLYH PEPHQW WQGLVHHS TXDOLW\ DQ  
participants reported a small positive improvement. Nearly  
DQJQ S PFDWQW LSLDQW M LQHG LQDWKIG WKDW W  
YHU\ OLNHO\ WR UHFRPPHQG WKH SU

Satisfaction with the program and adherence:

Although participants were encouraged to keep a personal  
ORJ IRU LQGLYLGXDO SUDFWLFH  
the program, the use of log books was very inconsistent and  
did not allow for compilation of practice data. Comments  
ZHUH H[WUDFWHG IURP SRVW LQWHUYHQWLRQ TXHVWLRQQDLUHV DQG  
from notes taken by instructors during or immediately af-  
ter mindfulness sessions based on group discussions. Study  
SDUWLFLSDQWV UHSRUWHG QXPHURXV EHQH¿WV DQG SRVLWLYH RXW-  
comes with very few negative comments. For instance, one  
participant reported (translation from French): “My pain  
isn’t less intense, but my relation to it has changed. Now I  
am able to live and respond to my pain more easily”. Another  
wrote: “My biggest discovery during this program was  
to realize the impact that emotions can have on the body”.

Discussion

DQG SHUVRQDO UHÁFWLRQV DERXW

2QH SDUWLFLSDQW H[SODLQHG ‡%HIRUH , ZRXOG GULQN WR QXPE

my pain. During the course of this program, I learned that  
there are other ways to cope and live with my pain. Since  
then, I stopped drinking and I can now stay with, accept  
and bring compassion to my pain”. Finally, one participant  
PHQWLRQHG ‡, DP OHVV DQ[LRXV DQG , IHHO WKDW , KDYH PRUH  
tools to help me deal with stress. I don’t think about my  
VFKRRO H[DPV WZR ZHHNV DKHDG RI WLPH DQ\PRUH LQVWHDG  
I focus on what I can do now to prepare... and I breathe.”

TXHVWLRQQDLUHV DQG

DQG SRVLWLYH RXW-

Other cited advantages and emerging themes associated  
with the program included: making new friends through the  
program, getting to know other teenagers living with simi-  
lar conditions, better social skills, increased school atten-  
dance and feeling less tired during the day, increased aware-  
ness and appreciation of the present moment, feeling more  
UHOD[HG DQG KDYLQJ EHWWHU VHOI UHJXODWLRQ HPRWLRQ FRQWURO

DQG , IHHO WKDW , KDYH PRUH

LQVWHDG

Average number of weekly home practices reported in post-  
intervention questionnaires was four per week (range 1-10):

SDUWLFLSDQWV SUDFWLFHG RQ DYHUDJH RQFH SHU ZHHN  
SDUWLFLSDQWV SUDFWLFHG WZR WR WKUHH WLPHV SHU ZHHN SDU  
WLFLSDQWV SUDFWLFHG IRXU WR VL[ WLPHV SHU ZHHN DQG SDU

participants practiced seven or more times per week. Average  
duration of individual home practices was of eight minutes:

RQH WR ¿YH PLQXWHV IRU SDUWLFLSDQWV VL[ WR ¿IWHHQ PLQ-  
XWHV IRU SDUWLFLSDQWV VL[WHHQ WR WZHQW\ ¿YH PLQXWHV  
IRU SDUWLFLSDQWV DQG PRUH WKDQ WZHQW\ ¿YH PLQXWHV IRU

SDUWLFLSDQWV 7KH QDWXUH RI SUDFWLFHV ZDV DV IROORZV

(from most frequent to least frequent): informal practices

during normal daily activities such as brushing teeth, wait-  
LQJ IRU WKH EXV IRUPDO VLWWLQJ ZDONLQJ PHGLWDLRQV ERG\  
VFDQ DQG PLQGIXO HDWLQJ EUHDWKLQJ \$OO QLQHWHHQ SDUWLFL  
SDQWV ZKR FRPSOHWHG WKH 0% , UHSRUWHG D VLJQL¿FDQW SRVL-

WLYH change in the way they coped with pain. This change

ZDV ‡VPDOO RU PHGLXP IRU SDUWLFLSDQWV DQG ‡ELJ RU  
YHU\ ELJ IRU 0RVW SDUWLFLSDQWV UHSRUWHG D VLJQL¿FDQW



between 17:30 and 19:00 (data not shown). In our study, WKH VLJQL;FDQW UHGXFWRQV LQ VDOLYDU\ FRUWLVRO OHYHOV IURP 17:30 to 19:00 suggest that MBIs might have an important bio-physiological impact in youth with chronic pain. The ODFN RI VLJQL;FDQW EDVHOLQH FKDQJH LQ SUH SRVW 0% , FRUWLVRO OHYHOV EHWZHHQ WKH ;UVW 0% , VHVVLQRQ DQG WKH HLJKWK session seem to indicate that these changes are of short duration. As mentioned in an early study of the original 0% 65 SURJUDP E\ .DEW =LQQ .DEW =LQQ /LSZRUK Burney, 1985), our data support the assumption that participants would need to practice mindfulness on a regular daily EDVLV WR EH DEOH WR VHH VXVWDLQH EHQH;WV 8QIRUWXQDWHO\ the large number of uninterpretable saliva samples could have impacted the data on cortisol. This could have been remediated by using Salivette® devices containing citrate WR VWLPXODWH VDOLYD SURGXFWLRQ \*DOODJKHU /HLWFK 0DVVH\ 0F\$OOLVWHU :LOOLDPV <RXQJ 1HYHUWKHOHVV LW LV ZRUK QRWLQJ WKDW WKH HuHFV VL]H IRU VDOLYDU\ FRUWLVRO ZDV large, which strengthens our results.

There are other limitations to this study. First, we did not track long-term changes. The latest measurement, ten weeks SRVW 0% , LQ WKH H[SHULPHQWDO JURXS GLG QRW VKRZ DQ\ VLJQL;FDQW FKDQJHV LQ EDVHOLQH PHDVXUHPHQW VFRUHV 6HFRQG our design did not include a standardized assessment of mindfulness or daily practice measures which could have been useful to better describe the integration of mindfulness in daily life. Third, even though the study was open to both males and females, only females were enrolled, limiting H[WHUQDO YDOLGLW\ DQG VXJJHVWLQJ D SRWHQWLDO VHOHFWLRQ ELDV Fourth, our clinical population (i.e. pain conditions) was highly heterogeneous. This could limit the conclusions and the reproducibility of this study. Fifth, due to budgetary and time limitations, control values for salivary cortisol levels were taken from young adults and not from adolescents. In addition, the number of samples per participant were limited: it would have been more informative to gather a larger number of saliva samples from each participant, throughout WKH GD\ RQ WKH ;UVW DQG ODVW GD\ RI WKH 0% , DV VXJJHVWHG elsewhere (Matousek et al., 2010). Lastly, the lack of an attention-control group represents another important limitation of our study design. As a subsequent step, a head to head trial with CBT or dialectical behavioural therapy as a comparative group may have been informative (Hatchard, /HSDJH +XWRQ 6NLGPRUH 3RXOLQ DV WKH DEVHQFH RI DQ DFWLYH FRWURO JURXS PDNHV LW GLVFXOW WR GLVWLQJXLVK WKH WKHUDSHXWLF EHQH;WV RI EHLQJ LQ D JURXS VHWWLQJ IURP WKH impact of the MBI itself.

## Conclusion

&KURQLF SDLQ LQ DGROHVFHQWV LV D VLJQL;FDQW FOLQLFDO SURE-OHP ZLWK PDQ\ FRPRUEGLWLHV DQG VLJQL;FDQW LPSDLUPHQWV

one-year follow-up. *Journal of Psychosomatic Research*, 74(1), 31-40.

GRL M MSV\FKRUHV

\*DOODJKHU 3 /HLWFK 0 0 0DVVH\ \$ ( 0F\$OOLVWHU :LOOLDPV 5 + <RXQJ \$ + \$VVHVVLQJ FRUWLVRO DQG GHK\GURHSLDQGURVWHURQH ' +(\$ LQ VDOLYD (uHFWV RI FROOHFWLRQ method. *Journal of Psychopharmacology*, 20(5), 643-649.

GRL

\*H[ )DEU\ 0 -HUPDQQ ) .RVHO 0 5RVVLHU 0 ) 9DQ GHU /LQGHQ 0 %HUWVFK\ \* \$XEU\ - 0 6DOLYDU\ FRUWLVRO SUR¿OHV LQ patients remitted from recurrent depression: One-year follow-up of

a mindfulness-based cognitive therapy trial. *Journal of Psychiatric Research*, 46

GRL M MSV\FKLUHV

\* 00 R\X%Z\AKEDFK - - %H VRQ + )U\FFKLRQH 0 00 00 0° pq%QC 0 0°P0@PÀ0' @ p@PEpÀ' p0 Àp@ p' P@' p0 interventions in healthcare: An overview of systematic reviews and

mea-arnaysesl ofRCTs. *PLoS: On*, 10 t H tety GRL j #jJourna.p(on.0024344 )Tj /C2\_1 1 Tf -1.125 -1.255 Td [<004B004400570046004B004400

Q DVGUR/V à\ 0DQ! . Q 6DODPR . FQ +D" V RUW- . VQ @ p À' 0 .KD . - ODG¥\;%Q@ - GD LHg 0° 00 0 À'°@ 004' 0— 0°P0@PÀ0

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teenagers with cancer.