

The phase-oriented trauma-processing model has been the dominant treatment model for PTSD since the 1980s. And indeed EMDR treatment fits very well within this model. However, data from studies on the contribution of attachment disorganisation to the development of complex trauma-related conditions indicates that mere processing of traumatic events per se without attention to developmental deficits may lead to increased disorganisation of states of mind, especially in patients with major Dissociative Disorders and Borderline Personality Disorder. Ways in which the standard EMDR protocol can be adjusted to implement attachment repair and increased development of a stable, integrated sense of self will be addressed.