The Impact of Web-Based Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy on Chronic Pain Acceptance in Patients with Rheumatoid Arthritis

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1. Round 1

1.1 Reviewer 1

Date: 28 October 2023

Reviewer:

Improve the integration of the literature review with your study's objectives. Clearly outline how your research addresses the limitations or gaps identified in previous studies.

Provide a more detailed description of the participant selection process, including inclusion and exclusion criteria, recruitment methods, and any ethical considerations. This will enhance the study's replicability and ethical transparency.

The description of the web-based CBT intervention requires more detail. Include information on the program's content, duration, frequency, and how participant engagement and adherence were monitored and encouraged.

Elaborate on the outcome measures used to assess chronic pain acceptance. Discuss the selection process for these measures and their validity and reliability in measuring pain acceptance in RA patients.

Ensure that the results are presented in a clear, organized manner. Use tables and figures to summarize key findings effectively, and ensure they are accompanied by comprehensive captions and referenced in the text.

Provide more detailed information on the statistical methods used to analyze the data, including any software utilized. This should include a rationale for the choice of statistical tests and a discussion of their appropriateness for your data set.

Deepen the discussion of your results in the context of existing literature. Highlight both the congruencies and discrepancies with previous studies and explore possible reasons for these findings.

Expand on the clinical implications of your findings for the management of chronic pain in RA patients. Discuss how web-based CBT could be integrated into existing treatment protocols and the potential barriers to implementation.

While some limitations are mentioned, providing a more thorough examination of the study's limitations, including its generalizability, potential biases, and the web-based delivery's impact on engagement and efficacy. Additionally, suggest specific directions for future research, including long-term outcomes and comparative studies with traditional, face-to-face CBT.

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the updated document.

1.2   Reviewer 2

Date: 30 October 2023
Reviewer:

The introduction clearly outlines the study's importance. For minor revision, consider sharpening the focus by briefly summarizing the unique contribution of your study against the backdrop of existing web-based CBT interventions for chronic conditions. A sentence or two on this will suffice.

Your literature review is comprehensive; however, ensure all recent pivotal studies are included up to the present year to maintain the review's currency. A minor update to include any latest findings or meta-analyses on web-based interventions for chronic pain, especially in rheumatoid arthritis, would be valuable. Additionally, more explicitly link these studies to your research question to highlight the gap your study aims to fill.

The methodology provides a solid foundation for replicating the study. A minor yet significant enhancement would be to include additional details about the web-based platform used, such as its user interface, accessibility features, or any technical support provided to participants. These details can help in understanding the intervention's applicability in real-world settings.

The results section is well-organized and informative. To further improve clarity, consider adding or refining graphical representations of the key findings. For instance, a figure illustrating changes in chronic pain acceptance levels pre- and post-intervention could help readers quickly grasp the impact of the web-based CBT.

The discussion insightfully connects the findings with the broader context of chronic pain management and web-based interventions. For minor revision, tighten this integration by directly referencing back to specific studies mentioned in the literature review, discussing how your findings align or diverge from these studies.

Your conclusion succinctly summarizes the study's findings. Enhance this section by briefly mentioning the broader implications for clinical practice and patient education, especially considering the increasing importance of telehealth. This does not require extensive expansion, just a concise articulation of how your findings could influence future approaches to managing chronic pain in rheumatoid arthritis.

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the updated document.

2.   Revised

Editor's decision after revisions: Accepted.

Editor in Chief's decision: Accepted.