



Presenting a Model of Psychological Vulnerability Based on Alexithymia in Multiple Sclerosis Patients: The Mediating Role of Anxious Thoughts

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1. Round 1

1.1 Reviewer 1

Date: 08 November 2023

Reviewer:

Introduction, Paragraph 2:

"According to many researchers in psychological sciences stressful events play a significant role in the onset of psychosomatic disorders."

Provide specific references to the studies that support this statement to strengthen the argument.

Methods, Measures, Psychological Vulnerability:

"The 25-Item Symptom Checklist by Nejarian and Davoudi (2001) was used to measure psychological vulnerability."

Provide more detail on the psychometric properties of this scale, including its reliability and validity in similar populations.

Methods, Measures, Alexithymia:

"This study used the Toronto Alexithymia Scale to measure Alexithymia."

Include information on why this specific scale was chosen over other available alexithymia measures.

Results, Table 1:

The correlation matrix lacks confidence intervals for the correlation coefficients. Consider including them to indicate the precision of these estimates.

Results, Fit Indices for the Proposed Structural Model:

The RMSEA value is reported as .076. Explain if this value meets the commonly accepted criteria for model fit and provide a reference for the threshold used.

Discussion, Paragraph 1:

"The findings showed that the indirect effect of Alexithymia on psychological vulnerability through anxious thoughts was statistically significant with a value of 0.1699."

Discuss the practical significance of this indirect effect size. How does this value compare to previous research findings?

Discussion, Paragraph 3:

"Alexithymia is a risk factor for many mental disorders as individuals with Alexithymia are often under the strain of unexpressed physical correlates of emotions."

Provide more detail on the mechanisms through which Alexithymia contributes to psychological vulnerability.

Discussion, Paragraph 5:

"Patients always hope for recovery and experience increased anxiety depression and despair as treatment follow-ups prolong."

Suggest including qualitative data or patient testimonials to illustrate how these emotions manifest and impact daily life.

Discussion, Paragraph 6:

"Effective regulation of strong emotions has a significant impact on health especially in individuals with a history of chronic diseases."

Recommend exploring specific emotion regulation strategies that could be beneficial for this population based on existing literature.

Conclusion, Paragraph 1:

"The comprehensive findings of this research could guide the creation and development of a comprehensive therapeutic model..."

Provide specific examples of how these findings could be translated into clinical practice or intervention programs.

Ensure consistent use of technical terms and acronyms throughout the paper. Define terms when first used.

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the updated document.

1.2 Reviewer 2

Date: 11 November 2023

Reviewer:

Methods, Study Design and Participants, Paragraph 1:

"Participants were selected based on inclusion criteria such as having been diagnosed with the disease for at least three years..."

Justify the choice of a three-year diagnosis duration as an inclusion criterion. How does this period impact the study's findings?

Methods, Measures, Anxious Thoughts:

"This questionnaire is a multidimensional tool assessing worries measuring anxiety while also indicating metacognitive processes of anxiety."

Explain how the different dimensions of the Wells Anxious Thoughts Questionnaire relate to the study's hypotheses.

Methods, Data Analysis:

"Model fit was assessed using indices including the chi-square to degrees of freedom ratio..."

Include a brief explanation of why these particular fit indices were chosen and what threshold values indicate a good fit.

Results, Paragraph 1:

"The average age was 33.93 years with a standard deviation of 10.03."

Discuss the implications of this age range for the generalizability of the findings to other populations with MS.

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the updated document.

2. Revised

Editor's decision after revisions: Accepted.

Editor in Chief's decision: Accepted.