Analysis of Interpretation Bias Related to Overeating in Obese Individuals with Weight Loss Surgery: A Qualitative Study

Samira Tavakoli Kohpaei[1] , Hajar Torkan[2*] , Zahra Yousefi[2]

[1] PhD Student in Psychology, Department of Psychology, Isfahan (Khorasgan) Branch, Islamic Azad University, Isfahan, Iran
[2] Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology, Isfahan (Korasgan) Branch, Islamic Azad University, Isfahan, Iran

* Corresponding author email address: h.torkan@khuisf.ac.ir

Editor	Reviewers
Cain C. T. Clark Faculty of Health, Education, and Life Sciences, Birmingham City University, Birmingham, B15 3TN, U.K. scain.clark@coventry.ac.uk	Reviewer 1: Mehdi Rostami Department of Psychology and Counseling, KMAN Research Institute, Richmond Hill, Ontario, Canada. Email: dr.mrostami@kmanresce.ca Reviewer 2: Hooman Namvar Assisstant Professor, Department of Psychology, Saveh Branch, Islamic Azad University, Saveh, Iran. Email: hnamvar@iau-saveh.ac.ir

1. Round 1

1.1 Reviewer 1

Date: 03 July 2024

Reviewer:

"The research type was qualitative and utilized the thematic analysis method of Clarke and Braun (2006)." Please clarify why the thematic analysis method was chosen over other qualitative methods, and provide a brief rationale.

"Bariatric surgery is considered one of the most effective treatment methods for significant weight loss in individuals with morbid obesity." This assertion needs more specific statistical evidence or references to studies demonstrating the effectiveness of bariatric surgery.

"Participants were ten individuals selected purposefully." Provide more detail on the purposeful selection criteria. What specific attributes were considered to ensure a representative sample?

"After eliminating irrelevant sentences 17 basic codes were derived from the initial codes and from these basic codes seven organizing themes and three overarching themes related to interpretation bias in obese individuals were extracted." It would be helpful to briefly explain the criteria used to determine which sentences were considered irrelevant.

"No previous research has addressed such a study so it is not possible to compare these findings with other research results." While this may be true, consider discussing related research that explores cognitive biases or eating behaviors in obese individuals to provide some context.

"To explain the Interpretation Bias Facilitating Overeating indicating that before surgery these individuals interpreted eating-related situations in a way that encouraged eating it can be said that this comprehensive code includes two organizing themes..." It would be beneficial to include examples from the data to illustrate these organizing themes.

"To explain another organizing theme the Confusing Interpretation of Overeating it can be said that to facilitate overeating confusing interpretation of overeating occurs showing that the mind shapes cognitive interpretations of overeating to create opportunities for it." Consider integrating direct quotes from participants to provide concrete examples of this theme.

"To explain the comprehensive code Catastrophic Interpretative Bias it can be said that this code indicated that with increasing weight gain in the minds of these individuals obesity was perceived as an insurmountable disaster with eating being the only solace." This explanation would benefit from further elaboration on how this catastrophic thinking manifests and impacts behavior.

"Finally it is suggested that dietitians and psychologists in the field of overeating treatment use these findings to improve the condition of obese individuals." Offer more specific recommendations on how professionals can integrate these findings into their practice.

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the updated document.

1.2   Reviewer 2

Date: 11 July 2024
Reviewer:

"The Body Mass Index (BMI) which is used as a measure to determine the level of obesity in individuals is increasingly associated with chronic diseases..." The statement would benefit from additional citations of recent studies that link BMI to specific chronic diseases.

"Obesity in addition to causing physical and medical problems for affected individuals is often accompanied by some behavioral and psychological-emotional and cognitive issues." It would be helpful to specify what these behavioral, psychological-emotional, and cognitive issues are, supported by relevant references.

"The semi-structured interview process was such that questions about discovering the nature of cognitive bias were developed based on the research literature and theory..." It would be beneficial to include a few examples of the interview questions to illustrate how they address cognitive biases.

"For data analysis considering the researchers aimed to identify the underlying constructs of cognitive biases in obese individuals with sleeve gastrectomy surgery the six-phase thematic analysis method by Braun and Clarke (2006) was used as follows..." This section would benefit from a more detailed explanation of each of the six phases of thematic analysis.

Ensure the table is clearly labeled and formatted for easy reading. Provide a legend or key if necessary to explain any abbreviations or symbols used.

"Given these results it can be said that to maintain weight loss among obese individuals their interpretative biases need to be managed and they should receive appropriate training." Please suggest specific types of cognitive training or interventions that could be effective, supported by existing literature.

"This study like other research has limitations such as the possibility that these findings might not be validated by close relatives of these individuals." Provide a more detailed discussion of potential limitations, such as sample size, generalizability, and self-report biases.

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the updated document.

2. Revised

Editor's decision after revisions: Accepted.
Editor in Chief's decision: Accepted.