



# Investigating the Effectiveness of an Intervention Protocol Based on Grounded Theory on the Quality of Life and Worry of Patients with Irritable Bowel Syndrome

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## 1. Round 1

### 1.1 Reviewer 1

Date: 24 June 2024

Reviewer:

"The abstract mentions 'a mixed-methods implemented in an exploratory design,' but it lacks details on how the qualitative and quantitative methods were integrated. Consider elaborating on this integration process in a sentence or two."

"The introduction provides a comprehensive overview of IBS, but the transition from the general introduction to the specific study aim is abrupt. Adding a linking sentence explaining why the intervention protocol based on grounded theory was chosen can improve the flow."

"The intervention protocol description is thorough. However, specifying the qualifications of the person delivering the intervention and any training they received would add credibility."

"Table 1 provides detailed data, but it lacks confidence intervals for the mean differences. Including these would enhance the statistical rigor of your findings."

"Consider adding graphs or charts to visually represent the changes in quality of life and worry scores over time for both the experimental and control groups. This would make the data more accessible."

"The discussion interprets the results well, but it could benefit from a more detailed comparison with similar studies. Highlighting where your findings agree or differ from previous research would strengthen your conclusions."

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the updated document.

## 1.2 Reviewer 2

Date: 25 June 2024

Reviewer:

"While discussing the biopsychosocial approach, it is essential to explicitly identify the gap your study aims to fill. Specify how your grounded theory-based intervention differs from or builds upon existing interventions."

"The method section describes the sample size calculation well. However, it would benefit from a clearer justification of why an effect size of 0.4 was chosen for the sample size calculation."

"Elaborate on the theoretical implications of your findings in relation to grounded theory. How do your results contribute to or challenge existing theories in this area?"

"The limitations section is brief. Providing a more detailed account of the study's limitations, such as potential biases in sample selection or limitations in the intervention delivery, would provide a balanced view of the research."

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the updated document.

## 2. Revised

Editor's decision after revisions: Accepted.

Editor in Chief's decision: Accepted.