






The Impact of Architectural Design on Reducing Anxiety in Schizophrenic Patients: Exploring Familiar Cognitive Patterns in Therapeutic Spaces

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1. Round 1

1.1 Reviewer 1

Date: 06 June 2024

Reviewer:

In the introduction, the authors state, "Schizophrenia is a chronic mental health disorder characterized by disruptions in thought processes, perceptions, emotional responsiveness, and social interactions (1)." It would be beneficial to briefly mention recent advancements or gaps in the literature regarding the role of environmental design in mental health to better frame the study's contribution.

The hypothesis could be stated more explicitly. Adding a sentence like, "This study hypothesizes that incorporating familiar cognitive patterns in architectural design will significantly reduce anxiety levels in schizophrenic patients," would clarify the research focus.

The description of participant selection criteria lacks detail. Clarifying inclusion and exclusion criteria, such as "Participants were selected based on the treating physician's discretion, ensuring they met the inclusion criteria, which included a diagnosis of schizophrenia, no current substance abuse, and the ability to provide informed consent," would improve transparency.

The methods section states, "Data collection involved several stages utilizing different tools to gather both quantitative and qualitative data." More detail on the qualitative data collection process, such as "Patients' qualitative feedback on the architectural designs was collected through structured interviews," would enhance clarity.

In the results section, the tables present valuable data, but the narrative lacks depth in explaining the statistical methods used. Adding, "A paired t-test was employed to compare pre- and post-intervention anxiety levels, given the within-subjects design of the study," would provide context for the analytical approach.

The discussion section would benefit from a more nuanced interpretation of the results. The authors state, "The findings of this study reveal the significant role of architectural design in reducing anxiety levels among schizophrenic patients." Expanding on why Image C had the most substantial effect by linking specific design elements to theoretical frameworks in environmental psychology could provide deeper insights.

The limitations section is thorough but could address potential confounding variables. Adding a sentence like, "Potential confounding variables such as medication changes during the study period were not controlled," would provide a more comprehensive understanding of the study's constraints.

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the updated document.

1.2 Reviewer 2

Date: 11 June 2024

Reviewer:

The authors state, "Patients with schizophrenia often experience heightened levels of anxiety, which can exacerbate their condition and impede their recovery (1-3)." Including specific examples of how anxiety exacerbates schizophrenia would strengthen this point.

The sentence, "Post-exposure, their anxiety levels were re-assessed using the HAM-A," could be enhanced by specifying the time frame between exposures and reassessment to ensure clarity about the study design.

In Table 1, clarifying what "Low Anxiety," "Moderate Anxiety," and "Severe Anxiety" mean in terms of HAM-A score ranges will help readers understand the data more clearly.

The paragraph discussing cognitive rehabilitation would benefit from integrating more direct quotes or paraphrased findings from cited studies to solidify the link between familiar cognitive patterns and cognitive rehabilitation outcomes.

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the updated document.

2. Revised

Editor's decision after revisions: Accepted.

Editor in Chief's decision: Accepted.