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The Effectiveness of Intensive Short-Term Dynamic Psychotherapy on Pain Perception and Pain Catastrophizing in Women with Breast Cancer

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1. Round 1

1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

In the "Data Analysis" subsection, it states that repeated measures multivariate analysis of variance was used. However, there is no mention of any assumptions tested for this analysis (e.g., normality, sphericity). Include a brief description of how these assumptions were checked and any corrections made if assumptions were violated.

The description of the intensive short-term dynamic psychotherapy intervention mentions the protocol by Teska et al. (2005) but lacks specific details on the therapeutic techniques and activities used. Provide a more detailed description or include a supplementary table outlining the main components of each session.

It is mentioned that the control group did not receive any therapeutic intervention. Explain what measures were taken to ensure that the control group was equivalent to the experimental group in terms of attention and support, such as regular check-ins or placebo interventions, to control for the placebo effect.

In the "Measures" section, various scales are mentioned. Discuss the validity and reliability of these tools within the context of this study population, as previous validations were conducted on different populations (e.g., African Americans, Whites, and Hispanics).

Response: Revised and uploaded the manuscript.

1.2. Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

In the "Methods" section, under "Study Design and Participants," it is stated that "inclusion criteria included a maximum disease duration of 1.5 years." Clarify whether this refers to the time since diagnosis or time since treatment began, as this could impact participant selection.

The "Methods" section describes using convenience sampling followed by random assignment. Provide more details about the convenience sampling process, such as how participants were approached and recruited, to enhance the transparency of the study's methodology.

The "Findings and Results" section reports means and standard deviations for pre-test and post-test stages. Include effect sizes for the main outcomes to provide a sense of the magnitude of the intervention's impact, as this will aid in the interpretation of clinical significance.

The tables presenting descriptive statistics and analysis results (Tables 1 and 2) are crucial for understanding the data. Ensure these tables are formatted consistently, with clear labeling of columns and rows, and include confidence intervals for the reported means where possible.

The "Discussion and Conclusion" section thoroughly discusses the study's findings. However, the discussion would benefit from a more balanced view by explicitly mentioning the strengths and weaknesses of the study, such as potential biases introduced by the sampling method or limitations in the generalizability of the findings.

Response: Revised and uploaded the manuscript.

2. Revised

Editor’s decision after revisions: Accepted.

Editor in Chief’s decision: Accepted.

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