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Effectiveness of Self-Compassion Therapy on Loneliness and Health-Related Quality of Life in Infertile Women

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1. Round 1

1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

The introduction would benefit from including more recent statistics on infertility prevalence globally. Consider updating the figures provided by Ekinci (2017) with more current data.

The literature review mentions several studies supporting self-compassion therapy. However, it could be enriched by including a discussion of potential criticisms or limitations of these studies.

Provide more detailed descriptions of the self-compassion training sessions, including specific activities or exercises used in each session.

The paper mentions the validity of the Loneliness Questionnaire and the Health-Related Quality of Life Questionnaire. Including reliability coefficients from previous studies would strengthen this section.

The explanation of the repeated measures ANOVA could be more detailed. Include the rationale for choosing Bonferroni post-hoc tests over other methods.

The demographic table (Table 1) should include a more detailed breakdown, such as the duration of infertility and prior treatment experiences.

The paper mentions that assumptions for repeated measures ANOVA were checked and met. Including the actual p-values and test statistics for these assumptions (e.g., Shapiro-Wilk test) would enhance transparency.

Response: Revised and uploaded the manuscript.

1.2. Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

Clearly articulate the research gap. While the benefits of self-compassion are discussed, it would be helpful to specify what is novel about examining its effects on infertile women specifically.

Explain why a randomized controlled trial (RCT) design was chosen over other potential study designs. This will strengthen the rationale for your methodological approach.

Clarify the process of purposive sampling and how it ensures the representativeness of the sample. More detail on the inclusion criteria would be beneficial.

Elaborate on the activities or lack thereof for the control group. Were they on a waitlist, or did they receive any form of placebo intervention?

Alongside p-values, report effect sizes for all significant findings to provide a sense of the practical significance of the results.

In the discussion, provide a more nuanced interpretation of the findings. How do these results compare to other studies on self-compassion therapy?

Response: Revised and uploaded the manuscript.

2. Revised

Editor's decision after revisions: Accepted.

Editor in Chief's decision: Accepted.