




Effectiveness of Intensive Short-term Dynamic Psychotherapy on Attachment Styles, Somatization, and Health Anxiety in Patients with Chronic Pain

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1. Round 1

1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

The overall flow of the paper could be improved by a more rigorous proofreading to correct several typographical and grammatical errors scattered throughout the document. Ensuring academic language precision would enhance the paper's professional quality.

The discussion on the role of attachment styles in coping with chronic pain requires further expansion. Specifically, additional references to recent studies that support the claim about the role of attachment in chronic pain management would strengthen this section. It's advisable to include a broader range of literature that includes different types of chronic pain conditions to enhance generalizability.

The sample size justification based on Cohen's table and subsequent calculations seems vague. It would be beneficial to include a more detailed explanation of how the effect size was chosen and its relevance to the study's objectives, ensuring the rationale aligns with standard practices in psychological research.

The questionnaire's internal consistency (Cronbach's alpha) for the current study should be reported to confirm reliability in this specific context. Additionally, consider discussing any cultural adaptations made to the questionnaire, given the specific demographic of Tehran.

The explanation of the statistical tests employed is somewhat unclear. It would be useful to detail why certain tests were chosen and the implications of the test results on the study's validity. Specifically, clarifying the role of Mauchly's test of sphericity and its outcomes would aid in understanding the data assumptions met.

The interpretation of how ISTDP impacts patients' attachment styles needs clarification. Please provide a more detailed mechanism of action, perhaps including models or theories of attachment that are affected during therapy. This could include a discussion on how changes in attachment styles might specifically impact health anxiety and somatization.

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the document.

1.2. Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

The abstract should succinctly summarize the study's aim, methods, results, and conclusions. Consider restructuring the sentences for clarity and brevity to enhance readability and immediate understanding of the study's significance.

Clarify the specific objectives of the study to better align with the stated methods and expected outcomes. This might involve rephrasing for clarity and specifying the hypothesis statements.

The rationale for excluding participants using psychotropic drugs should be clearly linked to their potential effect on attachment styles, somatization, and health anxiety measures.

Ensure that all tables are clearly labeled and described. Table 1 needs a more descriptive caption that explains what the table represents, aiding in reader comprehension without needing to refer back to the text.

When comparing results with previous research, ensure that all claims are supported by direct citations. This includes comparisons of the effectiveness of ISTDP in similar or different contexts.

Expand on the ethical considerations by specifying the measures taken to protect participants' confidentiality and mental health, especially given the psychological nature of the intervention.

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the document.

2. Revised

Editor's decision: Accepted.

Editor in Chief's decision: Accepted.