




Effectiveness of Integrative Couple Therapy on Sexual Function, Marital Intimacy, and Impulsivity in Women Affected by Marital Infidelity

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1. Round 1

1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

The literature review is comprehensive but could benefit from a more focused synthesis of previous findings related to the core themes of the study. Highlighting gaps that the current study aims to fill more explicitly would strengthen the rationale for the research and its contribution to the existing body of knowledge.

The methodology section provides a clear overview of the study design and analysis. However, including additional details on the selection criteria for the counseling centers and the randomization process for assigning participants to control and experimental groups could improve transparency. These details will help in assessing the study's internal validity.

The results are presented clearly, but the section could be enhanced by including effect sizes for the main findings. This would provide a more nuanced understanding of the practical significance of the therapy's effects, complementing the reported statistical significance.

In the discussion, while the comparison with prior studies is beneficial, expanding on the theoretical implications of the findings would be valuable. Discussing how the results align with or challenge existing theories on marital infidelity, couple therapy, and emotional regulation could enrich the interpretation of the findings.

The study briefly mentions potential biases in the limitations section. Providing a more detailed discussion on how these biases were mitigated or how they might impact the interpretation of the results would strengthen the manuscript. For instance, discussing the potential for social desirability bias in self-reported measures and steps taken to reduce its impact could enhance the credibility of the findings.

Authors revised and uploaded the document.

1.2. Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

The description of the research design and methods requires significant expansion. Specifically, the paper should provide more detailed information about the emotion-focused therapy administered, including the specific components and therapeutic techniques employed in the sessions. Clarifying these aspects will enhance the replicability of the study and provide readers with a deeper understanding of what the intervention entailed.

The sampling method and participant characterization need further elaboration. The study's reliance on purposive sampling from a specific geographic area raises questions about the generalizability of the findings. Future versions of the manuscript should discuss the potential limitations of the sampling method and how it might impact the applicability of the results to broader populations. Additionally, providing more detailed demographic information about the participants can help in understanding the context of the findings better.

While the study utilizes repeated measures ANOVA, which is appropriate for the study design, the paper should include a more thorough explanation of the statistical analyses, particularly the rationale behind choosing this method over others. Furthermore, the interpretation of the findings could be enhanced by discussing the clinical significance of the results, in addition to their statistical significance. This would offer readers a clearer understanding of the practical implications of the therapy's effectiveness.

The discussion section should more thoroughly address the study's limitations. While the paper mentions the geographic limitation and the potential for response bias, a more comprehensive discussion of limitations, including those related to the study's design (e.g., lack of blinding, potential therapist effects), would strengthen the paper. Acknowledging these limitations would provide a more balanced view of the research and its contributions to the field.

The conclusion and future directions section could be expanded to offer more specific suggestions for future research. For instance, future studies could explore the long-term effects of integrative couple therapy beyond the three-month follow-up, investigate the therapy's effectiveness with diverse populations, or compare its efficacy to other therapeutic approaches. Providing concrete suggestions for future research can help to situate the study within the broader field and highlight potential areas for further exploration.

Authors revised and uploaded the document.

2. Revised

Editor's decision after revisions: Accepted.

Editor in Chief's decision: Accepted.