




# The Mediating Role of Guilt in the Relationship Between Suffering and Depression Among Caregivers of Elderly Patients with Life-Threatening Diseases

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## 1. Round 1

### 1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

The background mentions several studies (e.g., Kazemi & colleagues 2018, Jaracz & colleagues 2014) but does not clearly link these findings to the current study's objective. A revision should more precisely connect historical data to the present study's aim to investigate the mediating role of guilt between suffering and depression.

The sample size calculation is based on a general factor analysis rule, but the justification for using 15 subjects per factor needs more support or references to enhance credibility.

The results section reports significant findings but lacks sufficient detail about the control variables, if any, used in the analyses. Clarifying this would strengthen the validity of the findings regarding the mediating role of guilt.

Several references are quite old or not directly related to the study's core topic. Update and ensure all references are relevant and contemporary, especially those concerning the scales and models used.

Authors revised and uploaded the document.

## 1.2. Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

The study's objective is not succinctly stated, which could lead to ambiguity about the study's focus. This needs to be clearly defined to meet the journal's standards for specificity in research questions.

The sampling strategy is convenient, which may severely limit the generalizability of the findings. This approach is problematic for the claimed significance of the study's conclusions.

The description of the Beck Depression Inventory needs updating. The citation from 1961 is outdated, and more recent validation studies should be mentioned to demonstrate the current relevance and reliability of the instrument.

Authors revised and uploaded the document.

## 2. Revised

Editor's decision after revisions: Accepted.

Editor in Chief's decision: Accepted.