

# Explaining the Causal Relationships Between Attachment Styles and Pain in Women with Rheumatoid Arthritis: The Mediating Role of Mood Disorders




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E d i t o r	R e v i e w e r s
Gholamreza Rajabi <sup>1</sup>  Professor of Counseling Department, Shahid Chamran University, Ahvaz, Iran rajabireza@scu.ac.ir	<b>Reviewer 1:</b> Fahime Bahonar <sup>1</sup>  Department of Counseling, Universty of Isfahan, Isfahan, Iran. Email: Fahime.bahonar@edu.ui.ac.ir <b>Reviewer 2:</b> Mahdi Khanjani <sup>1</sup>  Associate Professor, Department of Psychology, Allameh Tabataba'i University, Tehran, Iran. Email: khanjani_m@atu.ac.ir

## 1. Round 1

### 1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

The introduction provides a comprehensive overview of rheumatoid arthritis. However, consider adding a brief discussion on how psychological factors like attachment styles have historically been overlooked in pain research.

The description of the revised McGill Pain Questionnaire (2SF-MPQ) could benefit from a brief explanation of why this specific tool was chosen over other available pain assessment measures.

The reliability coefficients for the attachment styles instrument are relatively low (e.g., Cronbach's alpha of 0.69 for secure attachment). Discuss the potential limitations this may introduce to the validity of your findings.

In Table 1, the correlation between avoidant attachment and mood problems is significant ( $\beta = 0.34$ ). Consider elaborating on whether this effect size is clinically meaningful and its potential implications for therapeutic interventions.

The path coefficients are well reported. However, a more detailed explanation of how these coefficients should be interpreted, particularly in clinical settings, would be beneficial.

The implications for clinical practice are mentioned briefly. It would be helpful to outline specific strategies or interventions that could be developed based on your findings.

Authors revised and uploaded the document.

## *1.2. Reviewer 2*

Reviewer:

When mentioning the global prevalence of rheumatoid arthritis, include the source and any recent trends that may highlight the importance of your research.

The inclusion criteria specify an age range of 18-45. Please provide a more detailed explanation for why this specific age range was chosen and how it affects the study's generalizability.

You mention the use of purposive sampling. Explain why this sampling method was selected over other options and how it may impact the study's representativeness and potential biases.

The discussion on the mediating role of mood problems could be enriched by comparing your findings to other studies in different populations or disease contexts. This would provide a broader perspective on your results.

You state that "mood disorders mediate the relationship between attachment styles and pain." Consider exploring whether there are potential moderating variables that were not examined but could influence this mediation.

Authors revised and uploaded the document.

## **2. Revised**

Editor's decision after revisions: Accepted.

Editor in Chief's decision: Accepted.