

Living with Fibromyalgia: A Phenomenological Study of Pain, Fatigue, and Coping

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1. Round 1

1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

The study's introduction and literature review proficiently set the stage by outlining the significance of fibromyalgia and its impact. However, integrating a stronger theoretical framework to guide the phenomenological inquiry would enhance the study's depth. For instance, the application of a specific phenomenological theory could further elucidate the interpretive processes behind the lived experiences of fibromyalgia patients.

While the methodology section describes the participant selection and data analysis process, it lacks comprehensive detail about the interview guide development and the thematic analysis procedure. Expanding on how themes were derived and the iterative process between data collection and analysis would strengthen the methodological rigor and transparency of the study.

The limitations section briefly mentions the potential for subjective bias and limited generalizability. A more thorough discussion of these limitations, including strategies to mitigate them and how they might affect the interpretation of the findings,

is necessary. For example, acknowledging the role of the researchers' subjectivities in phenomenological analysis and detailing steps taken for reflexivity would add depth to this section.

The discussion effectively connects the study's findings with existing research, but a more critical comparative analysis would enrich the manuscript. Highlighting both congruencies and discrepancies with previous studies, particularly in relation to coping mechanisms and the impact of fibromyalgia on daily living, would provide a more comprehensive understanding of the study's contribution to the field.

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the document.

1.2. Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

While the study presents a diverse participant pool, further clarification on the demographic breakdown could enhance the reader's understanding of the sample. Specifically, detailing the distribution of age, gender, and duration of diagnosis within the participant group would provide context for interpreting the findings' applicability and relevance to broader populations.

The Coping Mechanisms theme is particularly rich with insights. A minor expansion to elaborate on how these coping strategies evolve over time or in response to changing symptoms could offer deeper understanding and practical implications for both individuals with fibromyalgia and healthcare providers.

The literature review is comprehensive but could benefit from minor refinements. Specifically, a more focused synthesis of recent studies directly related to the themes identified in the research findings would streamline the introduction and underscore the study's novel contributions.

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the document.

2. Revised

Editor's decision: Accepted.

Editor in Chief's decision: Accepted.