



Qualitative Examination of the Relationship Between Childhood Trauma, Dissociative Identity Disorder, and Somatic Symptoms

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1. Round 1

1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

The abstract should clearly differentiate between the objectives, methods, results, and conclusion sections. Consider breaking down the abstract into these subheadings to improve readability and clarity.

In the sentence, "The objective of this study is to qualitatively examine the intricate relationships between childhood trauma Dissociative Identity Disorder (DID) and somatic symptoms," clarify whether the focus is on the causal relationships or the co-occurrence of these phenomena.

The description of the sample selection process in the "Study Design and Participants" section lacks detail on how participants were recruited. Include information on the recruitment methods, such as outreach through clinics or online platforms.

In the "Emotional Impact" subcategory, include specific quotes from participants to illustrate the identified themes. This will enhance the richness of the qualitative data presentation.

When discussing behavioral responses, explain how these behaviors relate to the development or manifestation of DID, supported by participant quotes or case examples.

The description of cognitive impacts such as "intrusive thoughts" and "flashbacks" should be elaborated upon. Include how these symptoms affect daily functioning and DID manifestation.

The theoretical framework in the introduction should be more explicitly connected to the study's findings. Clarify how the neurobiological, psychological, and cultural perspectives informed the study design and interpretation of results.

Ensure that the discussion integrates findings from the current study with existing literature. For instance, elaborate on how this study's findings confirm or challenge the findings of Daniels et al. (2019) and Ross (2005).

Expand on the limitations section. Discuss potential biases introduced by the self-reported nature of the data and how the study's qualitative design may limit generalizability.

The suggestions for future research should be more detailed. Specify which quantitative measures or longitudinal approaches would be most beneficial for building on this study's findings.

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the document.

1.2. Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

The sentence "Data collection continued until theoretical saturation was achieved" should include a more detailed explanation of how saturation was determined and at what point this occurred during the study.

Provide more specific examples of the semi-structured interview questions used. This will enhance the reproducibility of the study and offer readers a clearer understanding of the data collection process.

Expand on the steps of thematic analysis used in NVivo software. Include information on how initial codes were developed and how themes were refined and validated.

The demographic information provided in the "Findings and Results" section should be expanded. Include more details such as the participants' socioeconomic status and geographical location to provide context to the sample.

In the table presenting the results of qualitative analysis, consider adding a brief narrative or explanation for each theme to provide context and clarity.

In discussing physical health impacts, provide a more detailed description of how these symptoms were assessed and any relevant medical evaluations participants underwent.

The section on interpersonal challenges should discuss how these difficulties affect participants' treatment and support networks, with examples from the interviews.

In the discussion on cultural sensitivity, provide concrete examples of how clinicians can incorporate cultural context into their diagnostic and therapeutic practices.

When discussing therapeutic strategies, include evidence-based practices that have been shown to be effective for treating DID and related somatic symptoms. Provide references to support these recommendations.

The conclusion should succinctly summarize the key findings and their implications for clinical practice. Emphasize the need for a holistic treatment approach and the importance of addressing both psychological and physical health in individuals with DID.

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the document.

2. Revised

Editor's decision: Accepted.

Editor in Chief's decision: Accepted.