

## How Personality Affects the Way Individuals Experience and Interpret Physical Symptoms?

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### 1. Round 1

#### 1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

In the Introduction, the statement "Research on individual differences suggests that variations in perception and interpretation of physical symptoms stem from cognitive frameworks shaped by personality characteristics." needs a stronger connection to previous literature. Consider adding more citations to support this claim, particularly recent studies from 2020 onward.

In the Findings section, the demographic description of participants mentions percentages but lacks standard deviations for key variables like age. Consider including these values to enhance statistical transparency.

The study's limitations mention sample size but do not address potential biases in recruitment through online platforms. Consider discussing whether the method may have excluded populations less likely to engage in online studies.

The Ethical Considerations state adherence to the Helsinki Declaration, but there is no mention of institutional ethical approval. Was ethical approval obtained from a university or research ethics board? If so, specify.

The Findings section describes individuals engaging in health-related rumination but does not explicitly mention whether any participants had a clinical history of anxiety or health anxiety disorders. Clarify whether such backgrounds were considered during analysis.

The thematic analysis process is described following Braun and Clarke's (2006) framework, but it lacks details on how coding reliability was ensured. Did multiple researchers code the data independently? If so, mention inter-rater reliability or agreement measures.

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the document.

## 1.2. Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

The Methods and Materials section mentions "A total of 29 individuals participated in the study, and data collection continued until theoretical saturation was reached." However, it does not clarify how theoretical saturation was determined. Please provide specific criteria or indicators that signified saturation.

The data collection process states that "Interviews were conducted via online video calls." It would be beneficial to specify whether video interviews affected data quality compared to in-person interviews, particularly regarding nonverbal cues.

The Findings section mentions "Cognitive patterns varied, with some individuals engaging in logical symptom analysis while others exhibited anxiety-driven health rumination and negative interpretation biases." While this contrast is valuable, it would be beneficial to discuss whether these cognitive styles correlated with specific personality traits.

In Table 1, the category "Personality Traits and Symptom Experience" includes "Openness and Alternative Symptom Explanations," but the discussion lacks references to empirical studies on openness. Consider citing literature that links openness to health beliefs or alternative medicine use.

The Discussion section states that "The study also revealed that extraversion and introversion played a significant role in symptom communication and coping strategies." However, there is no mention of whether any gender differences emerged. If gender was analyzed, include findings; if not, state it as a limitation.

The Discussion highlights "Neurotic individuals often engage in repetitive symptom-checking, rumination, and excessive medical consultations, reinforcing their distress." This statement needs stronger support from qualitative data, such as direct quotes from participants.

The Conclusion states that "Understanding personality-related differences in symptom perception can inform tailored interventions that address cognitive biases, emotional responses, and behavioral tendencies." While this is insightful, it would be stronger with specific recommendations for intervention strategies.

The literature review references studies up to 2024 but does not include recent meta-analyses or systematic reviews on personality and health perception. If available, incorporating recent reviews would strengthen the theoretical foundation.

The concept of "negative interpretation bias" is mentioned multiple times, yet the discussion does not explore how this bias may be altered through cognitive-behavioral therapy (CBT) or other psychological interventions. Consider adding this perspective.

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the document.

## 2. Revised

Editor's decision: Accepted.

Editor in Chief's decision: Accepted.