



# Emotional and Cognitive Effects of Long-Term Antipsychotic Medication Use: A Qualitative Study

Kamdin. Parsakia<sup>1\*</sup> 



<sup>1</sup> Department of Psychology and Counseling, KMAN Research Institute, Richmond Hill, Ontario, Canada

\* Corresponding author email address: kamdinparsakia@kmanresce.ca

### E d i t o r

Christian Wiesner   
Professor at University College of  
Teacher Education in Lower Austria  
christian.wiesner@ph-noe.ac.at

### R e v i e w e r s

**Reviewer 1:** Parvaneh Mohammadkhani   
Professor, Department of Clinical Psychology, University of Rehabilitation Sciences  
and Social Health, Tehran, Iran. Email: Pa.mohammadkhani@uswr.ac.ir  
**Reviewer 2:** Abolghasem Khoshkonesh   
Assistant Professor, Counseling Department, Shahid Beheshti University, Tehran,  
Iran.  
Email: akhoshkonesh@sbu.ac.ir

## 1. Round 1

### 1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

In the paragraph discussing the purposive sampling method ("A purposive sampling method recruited 26 participants..."), please provide more details on the criteria used to ensure participants could provide rich, detailed descriptions of their experiences.

In the methodology section, the term "theoretical saturation" is mentioned. It would be beneficial to briefly define this term and explain how it was determined that no new themes emerged.

The section describing the sample demographics should justify the diversity of the sample (e.g., "The participants' ethnic backgrounds were diverse..."). Explain why this diversity is important for the study's validity and generalizability.

The findings section should ensure that each theme (e.g., "Emotional Blunting", "Cognitive Effects") is clearly separated and detailed with subheadings to improve readability.

In the findings section, consider using more participant quotes to illustrate each theme. For instance, the paragraph on "Emotional Blunting" could benefit from additional quotes to provide a richer narrative.

The cognitive intrusion subtheme ("Participants described intrusive thoughts and rumination...") needs more elaboration. Include specific examples of how these cognitive intrusions impacted daily life.

The section discussing daily functioning (e.g., "Routine Activities: Managing daily tasks...") should provide more detailed examples of the types of occupational impacts and specific physical health changes experienced by participants.

The discussion section should link findings to existing theoretical frameworks in psychology and psychiatry. For instance, how do the findings support or challenge existing theories on medication side effects?

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the document.

## 1.2. Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

The introduction paragraph beginning with "Antipsychotic medications are primarily categorized..." should include a more comprehensive review of recent studies on long-term antipsychotic use, particularly those published after 2016, to provide a current context.

The paragraph describing the semi-structured interview process should include examples of specific probing questions used to elicit deeper responses, beyond the sample questions already provided.

The section on data analysis (e.g., "Thematic analysis was employed to analyze the interview data...") should describe how the coding process was conducted and how inter-coder reliability was ensured.

The paragraph beginning with "The findings of this study have important implications for clinical practice..." should provide specific recommendations for healthcare providers based on the study's findings.

The paragraph on stigma (e.g., "Stigma associated with antipsychotic medication use...") should delve deeper into strategies for mitigating stigma, including educational and policy interventions.

The limitations section should expand on the potential biases introduced by self-reported data and suggest specific ways future research can address these biases.

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the document.

## 2. Revised

Editor's decision: Accepted.

Editor in Chief's decision: Accepted.