




Examining the Relationship between Fear of Childbirth, Maternal-Infant Attachment, and Postpartum Depression

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1. Round 1

1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

In the Introduction, the statement "marital infidelity, in general terms, is defined as a breach..." could benefit from additional explanation regarding the cultural or societal nuances in the study context. Clarifying how infidelity is perceived locally could strengthen the background.

The sentence "Statistics indicate that approximately 80% of divorces are due to infidelity" needs a source citation for accuracy. Including more recent or region-specific statistics, if available, would enhance relevance.

The Imago Therapy Protocol lists detailed sessions but lacks a rationale for each session's order and structure. Briefly explaining why certain exercises were chosen for each session would strengthen the method's transparency.

In Table 1, the control group showed some changes in scores across tests. Comment on these changes to clarify if they might relate to natural fluctuations over time, given no intervention.

In Table 3, anxiety and other metrics' follow-up data are presented but lack discussion on potential causes for fluctuations. Include speculation on why these changes persisted or varied over time.

Response: Revised and uploaded the manuscript.

1.2. Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

The statement "individuals' responses to infidelity bear similarities to post-traumatic stress disorder" might require elaboration on specific PTSD symptoms related to infidelity. This addition could highlight the rationale for focusing on anxiety in the study.

In the "Methods and Materials" section, the sampling method (purposive) is stated but not justified. It would help to explain why purposive sampling was chosen over other methods, such as random sampling, to ensure rigor.

The sentence "Inclusion criteria included at least a high school education" may exclude a segment of the population. Justify why educational level was an inclusion criterion, as this could affect generalizability.

In the "Measures" section, while describing the Emotional Expression Questionnaire, mention the validity of the scale used specifically within the study's cultural context, as cross-cultural adaptation might affect interpretation.

In Table 2, provide clarity on "Eta Squared" values by explaining their interpretation in the Results section. Readers may benefit from understanding the magnitude of Imago Therapy's effect on each variable.

The discussion references several studies, e.g., Matin et al. (2022), but lacks a thorough comparison of findings. Briefly discussing differences in findings would help position this study within the existing literature.

The statement "Imago therapy was effective in reducing anxiety..." lacks in-depth discussion of why this therapy might reduce anxiety specifically in women affected by infidelity. Elaborate on the mechanisms involved.

In discussing emotional expression, it is stated that "Imago therapy positively impacted emotional expression." It would help to specify which dimensions of emotional expression (positive, negative, intimacy) showed the most significant improvement and discuss possible reasons.

Response: Revised and uploaded the manuscript.

2. Revised

Editor's decision after revisions: Accepted.

Editor in Chief's decision: Accepted.