

Maladaptive Beliefs as a Mediator Between Trauma and Anxiety in Adult Survivors

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1. Round 1

1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

The sentence “Anxiety is a prevalent response to trauma, characterized by hypervigilance, intrusive thoughts, physiological arousal, and avoidance behaviors” would benefit from including references specific to DSM-5 criteria to strengthen diagnostic grounding.

While the demographics are comprehensive, the sentence “participants had a mean trauma exposure score of 9.47...” would be clearer if it included the maximum possible score on the LEC-5 to contextualize severity.

Consider providing confidence intervals for the correlation coefficients to offer additional information on the precision of these estimates.

The sentence “model fit indices indicated a good fit” should specify the criteria used to determine goodness of fit (e.g., RMSEA < .08, CFI > .95) to show alignment with statistical standards.

The interpretation “confirming the mediating role of maladaptive beliefs” would benefit from noting whether bootstrapping or Sobel tests were used to test indirect effects for robustness.

The statement “the present sample included various trauma types...” would be more compelling if trauma type frequency was briefly summarized to justify conclusions about relational vs. non-relational trauma.

Authors revised and uploaded the document.

1.2. Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

The phrase “These beliefs not only increase the likelihood of reexperiencing trauma-related emotions...” should be clarified. Does this refer to symptoms of PTSD (e.g., flashbacks), or general emotional dysregulation?

In the sentence “In Taiwanese culture, for instance, stigma associated with mental health issues... may lead individuals to internalize distress,” it would improve clarity to briefly elaborate on how cultural constructs like “face” or “collectivism” might influence maladaptive cognition formation.

The claim “changes in trauma-related beliefs mediate the effects of trauma-focused therapy on psychological outcomes...” should be contextualized with the age group or population sample used in the cited study to highlight generalizability.

The phrase “These anxiety symptoms are often rooted in perceived threats and loss of control...” would be strengthened by linking it more explicitly to cognitive theory, such as Beck’s model or Ehlers and Clark’s framework.

In “our findings reflect the relevance of these mechanisms in a non-Western, collectivist cultural context,” it would be informative to explicitly note if the results suggest culturally unique manifestations of maladaptive beliefs.

The discussion acknowledges “partial mediation” but does not explore alternative mediators (e.g., rumination, emotional suppression) that could enhance the theoretical scope.

Authors revised and uploaded the document.

2. Revised

Editor’s decision after revisions: Accepted.

Editor in Chief’s decision: Accepted.