

Components of Body–Self Ambiguity in Dermatology Patients: A Qualitative Study




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E d i t o r	R e v i e w e r s
Jordy Tasserie  Center for Brain Circuit Therapeutics Department of Neurology Brigham & Women's Hospital, Harvard Medical School, Boston, MA, USA jtasserie@bwh.harvard.edu	Reviewer 1: Asghar Jafari  Associate Professor, Department of Psychology, Kashan University, Iran. Email: as_jafari@sbu.ac.ir Reviewer 2: Mojtaba Tamadoni  Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology, South Tehran Branch, Islamic Azad University, Tehran, Iran. m_tamadoni@azad.ac.ir

1. Round 1

1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

In the line “The skin, as the most visible and symbolically charged organ...”, consider expanding on the symbolic charge concept by citing body phenomenology theorists (e.g., Merleau-Ponty, Leder) to anchor the argument in established theoretical discourse.

The phrase “Patients frequently describe their skin as ‘betraying’ them” is evocative but needs source triangulation. Indicate whether this metaphor emerged in your data or was derived from prior literature (Rees & Arnold, 2024).

The statement “Most existing studies have emphasized psychopathology rather than the phenomenology of body–self integration...” would benefit from specific citation of at least two recent meta-analyses (2023–2025) to support this gap claim.

The transition “Given this background, the present qualitative study aims...” is clear but abrupt. Add a brief rationale sentence summarizing why Tehran’s sociocultural context provides a distinctive contribution to the global literature.

The term “phenomenological approach” is too general. Specify whether Colaizzi, Giorgi, or van Manen’s method informed the data interpretation, as this clarifies epistemological alignment.

The sampling explanation notes “maximum variation,” but the article does not describe the variation criteria (e.g., socioeconomic status, education). Include a table or sentence detailing how heterogeneity was operationalized.

The section discussing creative self-expression (“transforming their scars into symbols of survival”) is highly original. Expand this by referencing post-traumatic growth or aesthetic agency literature to position this contribution within positive psychology discourse.

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the document.

1.2. Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

The discussion of the PUSH-D instrument is informative but reads like a methodological aside. Move this quantitative measurement discussion to a background subsection or summarize its relevance to justify why qualitative inquiry was prioritized.

The sentence “Skin disease can trigger emotional distress, while psychological stress may exacerbate dermatological symptoms...” could be strengthened by integrating a brief explanation of the psychoneuroimmunological mechanism linking stress hormones and inflammation to dermatologic symptoms.

The quote “I look in the mirror and don’t recognize myself anymore...” is compelling; however, ensure each representative quotation is linked to participant pseudonyms and demographics (e.g., gender, diagnosis) to contextualize voice diversity.

The opening synthesis repeats much of the findings. Reorganize to focus on interpretation and theoretical contribution rather than descriptive restatement; link findings explicitly to embodiment or identity theory frameworks.

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the document.

2. Revised

Editor’s decision: Accepted.

Editor in Chief’s decision: Accepted.