

## Dimensions of Sexual Self-Concept in Women with Endometriosis: A Qualitative Exploration


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

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### 1. Round 1

#### 1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

The sentence “Sexual self-concept refers to an individual’s perception, beliefs, and emotional responses concerning their sexuality...” would benefit from a short critical reference to how this construct differs from sexual self-efficacy or sexual schema, ensuring conceptual precision and theoretical distinctiveness.

The sentence “Given this background, the present study aims to explore...” should follow with an explicit research question or guiding objective, e.g., “What are the lived dimensions of sexual self-concept among women with endometriosis?” This addition would enhance methodological coherence.

The participant quote “When I look in the mirror, I don’t see a woman who is desirable anymore...” powerfully illustrates self-perception. However, consider using pseudonyms or participant numbers (e.g., P3, P8) to enhance qualitative authenticity and traceability of voices.

The phrase “Several participants described interpreting their pain as a source of personal growth...” is intriguing. Consider referencing or contrasting this with existential or feminist perspectives on embodiment, since this would situate findings within a richer theoretical lens.

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the document.

## 1.2. Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

The discussion of quantitative measures in “Existing quantitative and clinical research has primarily focused on measuring sexual function outcomes...” is insightful. However, it might strengthen the rationale if the authors cite a gap explicitly, such as the lack of culturally sensitive tools or longitudinal qualitative evidence in the context of chronic illness.

In the paragraph beginning “Cultural and contextual factors also play a crucial role...”, the paper makes strong cross-cultural observations but mainly cites Middle Eastern contexts. It would improve depth to briefly reference Western or Canadian cultural factors since the study setting is Canada—clarifying whether participants’ narratives reflected Western or immigrant cultural backgrounds.

The section “Before he even touches me, my body tenses up...” effectively conveys anticipatory anxiety. You may wish to link this to psychophysiological mechanisms (e.g., conditioned response or pain catastrophizing) to strengthen theoretical integration between psychology and somatic experience.

The discussion provides a strong synthesis but should clarify how the current findings extend prior work. For example, you can highlight that this study contributes a multidimensional typology of sexual self-concept rather than simply confirming existing findings.

The sentence “Communication barriers between partners were a salient issue” could be expanded to discuss implications for couple-based interventions, providing practical clinical guidance based on your data.

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## 2. Revised

Editor’s decision: Accepted.

Editor in Chief’s decision: Accepted.