

The Effectiveness of Emotion-Focused Therapy on Attachment Disorders in Cancer Patients at Milad Hospital, Isfahan

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R e v i e w e r s

Reviewer 1: Thseen Nazir
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1. Round 1

1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

The statement "Bowlby believed that attachment theory is not merely a theory of child development but rather a lifespan developmental theory" should be expanded to discuss how this perspective directly applies to cancer patients. Providing more theoretical depth would strengthen the justification for focusing on this population.

In "Session 5: Reconstructing Interactions and Reframing Events," explaining whether cognitive restructuring techniques were incorporated into the intervention would help differentiate EFT from other therapies.

The sentence "EFT has a significant effect on reducing avoidant and ambivalent attachment styles and enhancing secure attachment" should explore the mechanism behind these changes. Was emotion regulation a mediator? Including potential mediating variables would strengthen the interpretation.

Response: Revised and uploaded the manuscript.

1.2. Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

The claim "Insecure attachment disorders may contribute significantly to the development of psychological and physical issues such as cancer (Sun et al., 2024)" needs further elaboration. The mechanism linking attachment to cancer development should be specified, as correlation does not imply causation.

The description "Emotion-focused therapy was conducted in 10 group sessions, each lasting 45 minutes" should specify whether the sessions followed a manualized protocol. If yes, citing the manual or framework used would be beneficial.

"The Cronbach's alpha coefficients for the secure, avoidant, and ambivalent subscales in a female student sample were 0.74, 0.71, and 0.69, respectively" should be supplemented with reliability values from the current study's sample to verify measurement consistency.

The MANCOVA results presented in "As shown in Table 2, the significance level... is smaller than the significance threshold" should include checks for homogeneity of regression slopes and normality assumptions. Reporting assumption tests would enhance the statistical robustness.

"The post-test scores showed a significant increase in secure attachment" lacks information about long-term retention. Was there a follow-up assessment to determine if these changes persisted over time?

The statement "The results of this study align with previous research conducted by Zamani (2023), Mazinani (2023), Hesam Khajeh et al. (2022)" should expand on how these studies specifically relate to the findings. Were similar methodologies used? Did they examine the same attachment dimensions?

Response: Revised and uploaded the manuscript.

2. Revised

Editor's decision after revisions: Accepted.

Editor in Chief's decision: Accepted.