

Effectiveness of Schema Therapy on Dyadic Alliance and Hostile Attribution in Women Experiencing Infidelity and Marital Betrayal

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E d i t o r	R e v i e w e r s
Silvia Helena Koller ^{OR} Faculty member, Universidade Federal do Grande do Sul, Porto Alegre, Brazil silvia.koller@pq.cnpq.br	Reviewer 1: Farideh Dokanehi Fard ^{OR} Associate Professor, Counseling Department, Roudehen Branch, Islamic Azad University, Roudehen, Iran. Email: f.dokaneifard@riau.ac.ir Reviewer 2: Mohammad Masoud Dayarian ^{OR} Assistant Professor, Department of Counseling, Khomeinishahr Branch, Islamic Azad University.Komeinishar/Isfahan,Iran. dayariyan@iaukhsh.ac.ir

1. Round 1

1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

The discussion on dyadic alliance states, “Research has shown that nurturing a sense of dyadic alliance in relationships can lead to increased relationship satisfaction and overall well-being.” Cite specific studies supporting this claim and clarify whether findings are generalizable to women experiencing infidelity.

The study states, “This study employed a quasi-experimental design with a pretest-posttest control group and follow-up.” Explain why a quasi-experimental design was chosen over a randomized controlled trial and discuss potential biases.

The inclusion criteria specify “a minimum of 2 months since the spousal infidelity occurred.” Justify this time frame—why was two months considered sufficient for emotional stabilization and intervention effectiveness?

The statement, “Participants explore their current problems through case conceptualization, identifying repeated patterns, childhood needs, early environmental factors, biological influences, and schema triggers,” lacks detail on how these concepts were operationalized. Provide an example or structured framework.

The standard deviations for some measures appear large relative to means. Discuss potential heterogeneity in the sample and whether any outliers influenced the results.

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the document.

1.2. Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

The statement, “Hostile attribution biases are associated with cognitive schemas that foster aggression, and if these biases become stable and entrenched, they may escalate into persecutory delusions,” should be elaborated. Include more discussion on how cognitive schemas interact with hostility and provide stronger empirical support.

The research question, “Is schema therapy effective in enhancing dyadic alliance and reducing hostile attributions?” is well-formed but lacks specificity regarding the control group. Consider explicitly stating whether the control group received any alternative therapy.

The Bonferroni correction method is noted, but no justification is provided for its use. Discuss why this correction was preferred over other multiple comparison methods.

The statement, “Dyadic alliance is a cornerstone of marital relationships, playing a crucial role in fostering emotional bonds and mutual support,” is theoretically sound but lacks connection to study results. Explicitly discuss how findings align with or contrast prior research.

The claim, “Schema therapy, as an effective approach, aids in identifying and modifying maladaptive schemas and unhealthy cognitive and emotional patterns,” is overly general. Address how specific therapy components contributed to dyadic alliance improvement.

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the document.

2. Revised

Editor’s decision: Accepted.

Editor in Chief’s decision: Accepted.