




Effectiveness of Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing (EMDR) Therapy on Fear of Cancer Recurrence and Body Image in Patients with Breast Cancer




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E d i t o r	R e v i e w e r s
Silvia Helena Koller  Faculty member, Universidade Federal do Grande do Sul, Porto Alegre, Brazil silvia.koller@pq.cnpq.br	Reviewer 1: Ali Akbar Soleymanian  Associate Professor of Counseling Department, Bojnord University, Iran. Email: Soleymanian@ub.ac.ir Reviewer 2: Hajar Torkan  Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology, Islamic Azad University, Isfahan Branch (Khorasgan), Isfahan, Iran. h.torkan@khuisf.ac.ir

1. Round 1

1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

The phrase “cluster random sampling” is inconsistent with the later statement that “40 patients were selected through convenience sampling.” Please clarify the actual sampling method used, as this impacts the study's internal validity.

The session descriptions are accurate but would benefit from indicating how each phase relates to the reduction of fear of recurrence and body image improvement specifically in breast cancer patients.

No mention is made of how fidelity to the EMDR protocol was ensured (e.g., use of treatment manuals, supervision, or fidelity checklists). Please provide this information.

It is stated that sphericity was violated and Greenhouse-Geisser corrections were applied, but specific ϵ values and corrected degrees of freedom are not reported. Including these would increase the methodological rigor.

Effect sizes (e.g., partial $\eta^2 = 0.24$) are reported, but their interpretation (small, medium, large) is not discussed. Providing benchmarks would help contextualize the findings for readers.

While the study aligns with previous findings, the manuscript does not clearly articulate how it adds new knowledge. Consider emphasizing how it extends EMDR research specifically to Iranian breast cancer patients or a previously unexamined subpopulation.

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the document.

1.2. Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

The use of Cohen's table and an effect size of 0.7 needs citation and elaboration. Please specify the source for the effect size and provide a reference for Cohen's guidelines.

The protocol mentions "five weekly sessions" while the abstract and earlier methods section describe eight sessions. Please resolve this inconsistency regarding the number of intervention sessions.

The discussion refers to the Accelerated Information Processing model and limbic system activity. While these are relevant, please include more recent neurobiological references (e.g., EEG/fMRI studies) to support these claims.

Given the quasi-experimental design and lack of blinding, the statement "EMDR therapy was effective..." should be softened to reflect potential confounding variables (e.g., "EMDR therapy was associated with improvements...").

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the document.

2. Revised

Editor's decision: Accepted.

Editor in Chief's decision: Accepted.