








Emotional Numbing as a Mediator Between Sexual Trauma and Relationship Dissatisfaction in Women

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E d i t o r	R e v i e w e r s
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1. Round 1

1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

The sentence “70% of divorced women suffering from major depression” (Araghi, 2025) lacks methodological details. Clarify whether this statistic was derived from a clinical diagnosis or self-reported measures and the sample size involved.

The citation “Gladstone et al., 1889” appears historically inconsistent for psychological research and should be verified. If a historical article is cited, justify its relevance or replace it with more contemporary studies on locus of control and depression.

The explanation “lower mean score in locus of control” should clarify the interpretation—does a lower score indicate a shift toward internal or external locus? Make the directionality explicit for reader comprehension.

“...helps the patient fully experience unconscious emotions without triggering parasympathetic anxiety...” – This statement is compelling but would benefit from referencing empirical studies that demonstrate the efficacy of graded emotional exposure within ISTDP.

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the document.

1.2. Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

“Individuals with an internal locus of control are less likely to experience anxiety and depression...” would benefit from citation triangulation. Include at least one meta-analysis or longitudinal study to reinforce this claim.

The paragraph conflates motivational and cognitive impairments in depression but does not cite neurobiological or behavioral mechanisms linking them. Consider referencing specific dopamine pathway research to substantiate this.

“The questionnaire has been validated in terms of content and construct...”—this is vague. Include specific validity coefficients or the methods (e.g., factor analysis) used in the original validation study.

The F-statistics and p-values are informative, but the pretest F values and p-values (e.g., .080) are close to marginal significance. A brief commentary on this in the text would help clarify potential baseline group differences.

The sentence “These findings align with Ajilchi et al. (2013)...” would benefit from specifying the population used in the cited study to establish the similarity or distinction between the studies.

The sentence “ISTDP may influence a shift from external to internal locus of control...” should be supported with empirical evidence from neurological or psychotherapeutic process research. Currently, it remains theoretical.

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the document.

2. Revised

Editor’s decision: Accepted.

Editor in Chief’s decision: Accepted.