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OPEN PEER REVIEW

Comparing the Anxiety of Patients with Epilepsy Before and After Drug Treatment

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About this report

This open peer review (OPR) report shows the public comments made on this article during peer review, by the reviewers, the associate editor and the editor-in-chief, for every revision round, together with the authors' replies. Comments appear only with the consent of the people who wrote them. Reviewers who chose to sign their report are named; the others are shown as "Referee". Comments are edited for language only, and confidential remarks to the editors are not included.

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1 Original submission

2 comments · 29 Jun 2024 – 29 Jun 2024

Associate Editor

MAJOR REVISION 29 Jun 2024

Dear EIC,
I thank the authors and express my appreciation to the researchers. The manuscript is a valuable piece of research. But some revisions are needed. The authors should revise it based on ALL comments.

Editor-in-Chief

MAJOR REVISION 29 Jun 2024

Dear Author,
Thank you for submitting the article. It needs some revision. Please revise it based on the reviewers' and AE's comments.

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Revision 1

AUTHORS' RESPONSE TO REVIEWERS

Authors' reply to reviewers

The next pages contain the authors' point-by-point reply to the comments of this revision round, as submitted with the revised manuscript. It is published as the authors wrote it.

Reviewer 1:

Question:

In this article, your main variable is anxiety. But it is not discussed in the introduction. Please add the definition of anxiety, the prevalence of anxiety, the ways to relieve and reduce anxiety, the role of seizures and epilepsy in the prevalence of anxiety, systematic review studies and meta-analysis in the field of the prevalence of epilepsy, etc.

This paragraph is very important and must be added in the introduction of the article.

Reply:

Health Anxiety Inventory (HAI) occurs when the patient's health awareness is low for a patient who has a chronic medical condition. In fact, illness anxiety is diagnosed when feelings or physical changes are interpreted as indicating a serious illness or suffering from it. Health anxiety refers to excessive and unreasonable worry or fear about having or contracting a disease that lasts for more than 6 months[26-28].

Question:

The work method needs to be modified.

Reply:

I modified.

Question:

One of the things that should be done is the division of the introduction. For example, write each of the components of the introduction, including the entry and exit criteria, the tools used, the research method, how to analyze the data, etc. in a separate title. In fact, write a headline for each. This will encourage the reader more.

Reply:

3. Methods

3.1. Study Design and Population

In this study, which was conducted in 2020 with the code of ethics IR.MEDILAM.REC.1399.002. The study population consisted of patients with epilepsy who referred to the clinics of public hospitals in Ilam city.

3.2. Inclusion and Exclusion Criteria

3.3.1. Inclusion Criteria

1- minimum age of 18 to 65 years, 2- ability to speak Persian or Kurdish, 3- informed consent to participate in the study, 4-the doctor's definite diagnosis of epilepsy, 5-access to a telephone at home or mobile, 6-At least 3 months have passed since the diagnosis of the disease.

3.3.2. Exclusion Criteria

1-development of any complications affecting anxiety (including the death of family members, creating tension in the family, hospitalization of the patient or any other effective factor), 2-death of the patient, 3-only the patients who were diagnosed with epilepsy for the first time and who took epilepsy medicine for the first time were included in the study and other patients were excluded from the study.

3.4. Data Gathering

The tools used included the demographic information form (age, gender, education, etc.), Health Anxiety Inventory (HAI) and Beck Anxiety Inventory (BAI):

3.4.1. Health Anxiety Inventory (HAI): This tool has 18 items; each item has 4 options (scoring for each item from 0 to 3 points). Each of the options includes the individual's description of the components of health and illness in the form of a news sentence, and the subject must choose one of the sentences that is better. The obtained score is between 0 and 54, and a higher score is a sign of health anxiety[26-28]. In Nargesi et al.'s study, the reliability of the questionnaire was checked by Cronbach's alpha method and the value of 0.75 was confirmed[29].

3.4.2. Beck Anxiety Inventory (BAI): This tool has 21 questions on a 4-point Likert scale (not at all, mild, moderate, severe) and its scores range from 0 to 63. A higher score indicates more anxiety[30]. In Kaviani et al.'s study, the reliability of the tool was confirmed by alpha method equal to 0.92[31].

After obtaining permission from the university's research ethics committee, the researchers started questioning by referring to the clinic of the educational hospitals of Ilam city, which was the referral center for epilepsy patients. If the patients were literate in reading and writing and also understood the research questions, the questionnaire was completed by self-report method and otherwise by interview method. In this study, the researched patients used epilepsy drugs as prescribed by the attending physician. Also, the tools of the research were completed before taking the drug by the patient and at time intervals of one, three and 6 months after taking the drug and follow-up by the patients. The data was analyzed with SPSS version 16 software. descriptive tests, Paired Samples Test analysis, independent t-test and ANOVA were also used.

Question:

Refer to the articles on the validity and reliability of the tool.

Reply:

3.4. Data Gathering

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anxiety[30]. In Kaviani et al.'s study, the reliability of the tool was confirmed by alpha method equal to 0.92[31].

Question:

Explain the exact and complete way of statistical analysis.

Reply:

descriptive tests, Paired Samples Test analysis, independent t-test and ANOVA were also used.

Question:

Result:
Why are there 4 steps listed in table number 2? But in table number 4, the number of 3 steps? Is it correct? Please check. The steps are the steps mentioned in the data analysis section.

Reply:

It is approved.

Question:

Discussion
Well written. But one of the points that can help to improve it is summarizing the discussion.

Reply:

Considering the positive effect of drug administration on reducing the HAI score and BAH score of the patients, in this regard, it is suggested that drug interventions be carried out in order to improve the health of these patients.

Reviewer 2:

Question:

please see attach file

Reply:

I edit in the file

2 Revision 1

3 comments · 4 Jul 2024 – 6 Jul 2024

Farhad Modara Reviewer

ACCEPT 4 Jul 2024

Congratulations on your accepted article.

Associate Editor

ACCEPT 6 Jul 2024

Dear EIC.
Previous errors have been corrected, and there are no further recommendations.

Editor-in-Chief

ACCEPT 6 Jul 2024

Dear AUTHORS,
Your revisions have significantly improved the article, and it is now deemed acceptable for publication.
Congratulations on your hard work and dedication to enhancing the quality of your work.