IJ Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences
Volume 17 · Issue 4 · e138878

OPEN PEER REVIEW

Effectiveness of Family-Focused Therapy in Bipolar Disorder: A Randomized Controlled Trial

Maryam Yosefi Tabas, Fereshte Momeni, Nour-Mohammad Bakhshani, Abbas Pourshahbaz, Omid Rezaei

SUBMITTED	ACCEPTED	DOI
8 Jul 2023	20 Sep 2023	10.5812/ijpbs-138878

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.

More about open peer review: brieflands.com/knowledgebase/opr

Contents

1 **Original submission** Referee 1, Referee 2, Editor-in-Chief 2

1 Original submission

3 comments · 21 Aug 2023 – 20 Sep 2023

Referee 1 Reviewer

MAJOR REVISION 21 Aug 2023

- Use the MeSH keywords, please.
The statistical analysis method in the "abstract" was incomplete.
- The knowledge gap is stated in the objectives instead of the introduction.
- Explain how the sample size was calculated.
- Are there Persian versions of the questionnaires, and do they have acceptable validity and reliability? Please mention and cite them.
- Was the interviewer or statistics assistant blinded to the subjects' treatment type?
- There is not any explanation of the statistical analysis in the method section. Mention the name of the analytic tests and the level of significance. In Table 2, were the p-values of marital status and socioeconomic status significant or not?
- Define the abbreviation in the footnotes of the tables.
- In the result section, please write the p-value correctly (0.001). For example, lines 150, 152, and 154 were written "…. p-value =/001".
There is an overlap between the result and the discussion. Please do not discuss results in the result section.

Referee 2 Reviewer

REJECT 27 Aug 2023

I thank the authors for considering IJPBS as a potential platform for their submission.
While this study provides valuable insights into the efficacy of family-focused therapy for bipolar disorder, it is not suitable for publication in the IJPBS due to several significant limitations.
1. Small sample size: The study only included 50 patients and their caregivers, which may limit the generalizability of the findings.
2. Potential confounding variables: The study did not control for potential confounding variables, such as medication adherence or other concurrent treatments, which may have influenced the outcomes.
3. Lack of blinding: Since the study involved a behavioral intervention, it was not possible to blind participants or researchers to the treatment condition, which may introduce bias.
4. Lack of information on therapist training and fidelity: The study did not provide information on the fidelity of the family-focused therapy sessions, such as whether therapists adhered to the treatment protocol. This may impact the effectiveness of the intervention.
5. The study did not measure all of the potential benefits of family-focused therapy, such as improved communication and problem-solving skills.
6. Lack of long-term follow-up: The study only measured outcomes immediately after the intervention and did not assess the long-term effects of family-focused therapy on bipolar patients.
7. Self-report measures: The study relied on self-report measures, such as the Expressed Emotion Questionnaire and the World Health Organization Quality of Life – BREF, which may be subject to response bias.
8. Lack of information on the clinical characteristics of the patients: The study did not provide detailed information on the clinical characteristics of the patients, such as the severity of bipolar disorder symptoms or the presence of comorbidities. These factors may influence the effectiveness of family-focused therapy.

Editor-in-Chief ACCEPT 20 Sep 2023

Thank you for submitting your manuscript for consideration for publication in the Iranian Journal of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences. Your paper has been evaluated by external peer reviewers. Please revise your manuscript according to the reviewers' comments.

After revision, authors are obliged to upload a Word file containing the reviewers' comments and their responses to all comments, one by one.

Besides, please pay attention to the word count limitation:
Word count limits are specified at this link: http://kowsarpub.com/en/index.php/services/for-authors/895-word-count

We look forward to receiving your revised manuscript. Thank you for sending your work to the Iranian Journal of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences. The full manuscript file must be highlighted to indicate revised text.