Author's response to reviews

Title: Effectiveness of the psychological and pharmacological treatment of catastrophization in patients with fibromyalgia: a randomized controlled trial.

Authors:

Javier Garcia-Campayo (jgarcamp@arrakis.es)
Antoni Serrano-Blanco (aserrano@sjd-ssm.com)
Baltasar Rodero (baltasar_rodero@yahoo.es)
Rosa Magallón (med000764@gmail.com)
Marta Alda (martaalda@hotmail.com)
Eva Andrés (eandres@unizar.es)
Juan V Luciano (jvluciano@sjd-ssm.com)
Yolanda Lopez-Del Hoyo (ylopez.iacs@aragon.es)

Version: 3 Date: 11 March 2009

Author's response to reviews:

The Editor
Trials

Ref: Effectiveness of the psychological and pharmacological treatment of catastrophization in patients with fibromyalgia: a randomized controlled trial.

Dear Sir,

We answer the question posed by reviewer 1 (we have included in the new version of the manuscript in red colour):

1.- It is possible that pain catastrophizing, as a construct, is similar to the negative cognitions of depressed patients, and therefore there needs to be a statistical adjustment for the presence of depressed participants with increased catastrophizing, should there be baseline imbalances between groups in pre-treatment proportions with depression, since the sample will not be stratified for depressed participants. In the discussion section, a short paragraph detailing the authors’ (or others’) experiences with differentiating between pain catastrophization and the negative cognitions of depression might help.

In the introduction section, to make clear this point, we have added the following paragraph:

“A positive association has been documented between depression and catastrophism (16), but this construct is different from the negative thoughts
found in depression. Depressive thoughts are only present associated with depressive mood; however, catastrophism is considered a continuous psychological variable, normally distributed even in healthy individuals without pain or depression (17). The kinds of cognitions are also different: depressive thoughts are related to depression and similar concepts such as inferiority, guilt or suicide. Catastrophism cognitions are exclusively focused on pain: a negative vision on it (magnification), continuously thinking on it (rumination) and impossibility to control it (helplessness).”

References


2.- In the abstract the Pain Catastrophizing Scale (PCS) is not explicitly mentioned under Measurements

We have added it

Kind regards,

Javier Garcia Campayo