Reviewer’s report

Title: Marital communication skills training to promote marital satisfaction and psychological health during pregnancy: A couple focused approach

Version: 0 Date: 06 Sep 2019

Reviewer: Kate Wahl

Reviewer's report:

This article examines the effect of a seven-session communication skills training on the marital satisfaction and psychological health of pregnant individuals with marital dissatisfaction. The overall approach of the study is logical. The following could be addressed to help validate and strengthen the conclusions:

Background:
- Clarification of rationale (lines 9-12, 16-19)

Methods:
- Allocation: Elaboration or relevant citation for random cluster method (line 30)

- Blinding: Clarification of whether/how study was blinded

- Intervention: Clarification of whether this was a group- or couple-based intervention, elaboration of how changes during the pregnancy affected intervention delivery (line 47), and citation of constructs addressed in the intervention (e.g., awareness cycle, line 59; speaking skills, line 65)

- Control: Elaboration of moral considerations (line 79) and content of education pamphlets (line 80)

- Tools: Additional description of the ENRICH Questionnaire and General Health Questionnaire outcome measures (e.g., domains of the scale)

Results:
- Definition LSD test (line 103)

- Inclusion relevant test statistics and P-values in the body of the text

Discussion:
- Discussion of the strengths, limitations, and generalizability of the findings is warranted to avoid overinterpretation of the results

Level of interest
Please indicate how interesting you found the manuscript:

An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:
Needs some language corrections before being published

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