

Revisiting Assisted Reproductive Technology (ART) - Related Psychological Symptom Clusters [Letter]

Huimin Du ¹, Kexin Wang²

¹First Affiliated Hospital of Huzhou University, Huzhou, Zhejiang People's Republic of China; ²Gynecology Department, People's Hospital of Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, Urumchi, People's Republic of China

Correspondence: Huimin Du, First Affiliated Hospital of Huzhou University, 158, Square Back Road, Huzhou, Zhejiang Province, 313000, People's Republic of China, Email huimindu@naver.com

Dear editor

We have read with great interest the article by Danni Song et al, titled “*Identification of Psychological Symptom Clusters and Their Influencing Factors in Women Undergoing Assisted Reproductive Technology in China: a Cross-Sectional Study*”,¹ published in the International Journal of Women's Health. We highly commend the authors for the rigorous design of the study and the insightful exploration of psychological symptoms among women undergoing Assisted Reproductive Technology (ART). This research offers valuable insights for clinicians in understanding the mental health challenges faced by these women and lays a strong foundation for developing targeted psychological interventions in the future.

Firstly, although the study conducted multivariate regression analyses to explore the influence of different clinical and demographic factors, no subgroup analysis was performed. Given the potential differences in psychological responses among patients with varying characteristics (eg, age, treatment duration),^{2,3} we recommend that future research conduct subgroup analyses to further explore these differences and provide more tailored intervention recommendations.

Secondly, we noticed that in Table 4, P-values are reported as 0.000. This form of reporting does not conform to standard statistical guidelines. To avoid any misinterpretation, we suggest expressing P-values less than 0.001 as “P < 0.001” to ensure the precision and rigor of the statistical results.

Moreover, while the study highlights the negative impact of psychological symptom clusters on patients, it does not offer specific recommendations for interventions. We believe future research could benefit from exploring effective psychological interventions, particularly the integration of psychological services within hospitals, social worker support, and other multidisciplinary approaches. This comprehensive approach would help shift the focus from solely treating the disease to a more patient-centered model,⁴ ultimately improving patients' overall quality of life.

In summary, this study provides valuable insights into the psychological health of women undergoing ART and contributes significantly to improving clinical treatment outcomes. We look forward to seeing the authors further expand on this important area of research, addressing current limitations, and providing more evidence that can be applied in clinical practice.

Data Sharing Statement

No datasets were generated or analyzed during the current study.

Author Contributions

All authors made substantial contributions to conception and design, acquisition of data, or analysis and interpretation of data; took part in drafting the article or revising it critically for important intellectual content; gave final approval of the version to be published; have agreed on the journal to which the article has been submitted; and agree to be accountable for all aspects of the work.

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Disclosure

The authors declare that have no known competing financial interests or personal relationships that could have appeared to influence the work reported in this communication.

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