

Review of: "The Effect of Visual Arts Educative Practices on Social Functionality in Patients With Schizophrenia"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

Thank you for inviting me to review this article, which discusses an interesting topic and a novel issue for the available data. However, I would like to address the following:

-The authors mentioned a study population of 196 schizophrenia patients and a study sample of 30 (15 experimental and 15 control). It is not clear how 30 patients were chosen from 196 or the reasons for excluding the others.

-There is no adequate data about previous similar studies, both in the introduction and discussion. More elaboration is needed with adequate and updated references.

-The study findings and conclusions could not be generalized because of the small number (15 each); such statements are worth mentioning in the paper as limitations of the study or within the conclusion.

-It was not clear how the 196 schizophrenia patients were diagnosed. By whom? Were they chronic or acute? Were they inpatients or outpatients? The name, place, and time of the study setting are not adequately explored. It is important to know these details in the method section.

-Regarding the ethical clearance, it was mentioned that informed consents were obtained voluntarily. We need to know about the participants' mental competency, especially for the patients with poor insight and judgment resulting from the disease process or for acute patients presented with agitation or hostility that interferes with their free will and sound communication and cooperation through the experiments. If the patients were unable to give their consent, were there any guardians?

-The association between Visual Arts Educative Practices and social functionality is not adequately addressed with evidence from previous similar studies in the introduction and discussion.

-What are the clinical implications of this experiment? Also, describing patients as (experimental) sounds undignifying. I recommend rephrasing.

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