

Peer Review

Review of: "Music Therapy for Alleviating Pain and Enhancing Quality of Life During Endodontic Treatment in Lagos, Nigeria"

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This study evaluates the **effectiveness of music therapy in reducing pain and anxiety** during endodontic treatment in a **Nigerian clinical setting**. The quasi-experimental design provides **valuable insights into a non-pharmacological approach** for improving the oral health-related quality of life (OHRQOL).

The **abstract should provide specific statistical values** for key findings. For example, mention **exact p-values** in the conclusion.

Clarify that while **music therapy showed improvement**, the **difference between groups was not statistically significant** for some key outcomes.

The **introduction could better define "music therapy"**—does this study meet the clinical definition (e.g., guided music intervention by a trained therapist)?

Clarify **why jazz music was chosen** over classical or local music preferences. **Would patient-preferred music be more effective?**

Expand on the clinical implications: Why is OHRQOL affected during and after endodontic therapy? **Is it mainly pain, stress, or a combination of factors?**

Clarify the randomization process: Was allocation truly random, or were there potential biases in group assignment?

Blinding: Were the **assessors blinded** to group allocation when scoring pain and anxiety?

Sample size justification: Although a power calculation is mentioned, **the final sample size (n=35) is small**—this should be addressed as a limitation.

Music Selection: How was the **jazz music playlist** chosen? Was there any **participant preference survey** to enhance engagement?

No significant between-group differences: The fact that both groups improved raises the question—is music therapy truly effective beyond standard care?

Effect sizes should be reported to show the magnitude of differences between groups.

More visual representation (e.g., bar graphs) could improve clarity in NPRS and MDAS scores over time.

Explain why music therapy did not significantly outperform standard care. Could factors like patient expectations or clinician interaction have played a role?

Discuss long-term applicability: Does music therapy have potential for **other dental procedures**, or is it specific to endodontics?

Expand on clinical recommendations: Should dentists offer music therapy as a routine option, or is further research needed?

Avoid overgeneralization—the conclusion should clearly state that **no significant between-group differences** were found.

Recommend future research strategies, such as **comparing different music genres** or **assessing long-term effects**.

This study is a **valuable contribution** to patient-centered dental care. With **minor revisions**, it will be a **strong candidate for publication**.

Declarations

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.