

Review of: "Clowns, Clown Doctors, and Coulrophobia: A Scoping Review"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

The manuscript "Clowns, Clown Doctors, and Coulrophobia: A Scoping Review" offers a detailed examination of coulrophobia within pediatric care settings, highlighting the nuanced role of clown therapy. Here are refined suggestions to enhance the manuscript further:

Introduction: Incorporating personal narratives from patients, parents, or healthcare professionals could enrich the introduction with varied perspectives on clown therapy, making the issue more relatable. Additionally, briefly outlining the main research question or hypothesis could directly connect the introduction to the review's goals, offering readers a clear understanding of the study's direction.

Objective: Defining the key elements of clowns and clown doctors at the outset can clarify the therapeutic context for readers. Considering coulrophobia's cross-cultural aspects, including a research question on how cultural differences affect perceptions of clown therapy, could reveal unique insights into coulrophobia's triggers. Delving into the psychological, behavioral, and physiological aspects of coulrophobia will offer a deeper understanding of its effects. Addressing both preventive measures and response strategies for coulrophobia within clown therapy could provide a more rounded view of managing the condition. Exploring the experiences of healthcare personnel and parents with clown therapy could offer additional perspectives on its impact.

Methods: Broadening the search strategy to include related keywords could uncover more relevant literature. Clearly outlining the method for assessing inter-rater reliability, such as using Cohen's kappa, would add rigor. While critical appraisal is not central to a scoping review, discussing its omission helps contextualize the findings. Detailing how discrepancies in data reporting are addressed will clarify the synthesis process.

Results: Directly connecting the findings to the research questions enhances the narrative's coherence. Discussing the variability in coulrophobia's prevalence and its potential causes could deepen the analysis. Considering the methodological differences among studies and their impact on findings could offer critical insights into coulrophobia's reported prevalence and characteristics. Expanding on the mitigation strategies employed by clown doctors against coulrophobia can strengthen the understanding of their therapeutic role.

Discussion: A deeper exploration of cultural perceptions of clowns and their influence on coulrophobia prevalence could enrich the discussion. Investigating gender differences in coulrophobia incidence and exploring broader implications for clinical practice could make the findings more actionable. Suggesting future research directions, such as longitudinal or

cross-cultural studies, can pave the way for further exploration of coulrophobia.

I thank the authors for their insightful manuscript on a topic of significant relevance in pediatric care. Their exploration into coulrophobia, its impacts, and strategies for clown doctors presents a valuable contribution to the field, inviting further research and discussion.