

Biopsychosocial approaches to treat female chronic pelvic pain

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Dear Dr. Aris Papageorgiou,

We read the recent systematic review of biopsychosocial approaches to treat female chronic pelvic pain (October 2024) [1] with interest. The fact that three included studies had been conducted by the same research group, and differed only in the type and focus of goal setting [2, 3, 4], inspired us to read them carefully.

All three studies contain multiple reported mean values, for variables which are normally reported as integers, which appear to be impossible: so-called GRIM inconsistencies [5]. We have posted our concerns on the peer review website PubPeer.com, <https://pubpeer.com/publications/A182FA06122C1D2C38E819415EC155\#1>, <https://pubpeer.com/publications/16A4EA3222C67B2E38AD0790F38E43> and <https://pubpeer.com/publications/7B0A50B193748DEF5196E10529FC76\#1> and asked the editors of *Maturitas* and *Archives of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation* to investigate.

Although such inconsistencies can be due to typos, or other minor data errors, the occurrence of so many, in three different randomised controlled trials by the same investigator group, raises serious questions about the integrity of the data and, hence, the validity of the results in these articles.

We suggest that readers interpret the reliability of these three studies, and hence also the systematic review, which is partly based on them, with caution unless the respective journal investigations indicate no cause for concern. We also think it essential that the authors should provide their data for reanalysis, to determine the origin of these inconsistencies.

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2. Ariza-Mateos MJ, Cabrera-Martos I, Ortiz-Rubio A, Torres-Sánchez I, Rodríguez-Torres J, Valenza MC. Effects of a Patient-Centered Graded Exposure Intervention Added to Manual Therapy for Women With Chronic Pelvic Pain: A Randomized Controlled Trial. *Arch Phys Med Rehabil*. 2019 Jan;100(1):9-16. doi: 10.1016/j.apmr.2018.08.188. Epub 2018 Oct 9. PMID: 30312595.

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4. Ariza-Mateos MJ, Cabrera-Martos I, López-López L, Rodríguez-Torres J, Torres-Sánchez I, Valenza MC. Effects of a patient-centered program including the cumulative-complexity model in women with chronic pelvic pain: a randomized controlled trial. *Maturitas.* 2020 Jul;137:18-23. doi: 10.1016/j.maturitas.2020.04.005. Epub 2020 Apr 25. PMID: 32498932.
5. Brown, N. J. L., & Heathers, J. A. J. (2017). The GRIM Test: A Simple Technique Detects Numerous Anomalies in the Reporting of Results in Psychology. *Social Psychological and Personality Science*, 8(4), 363-369. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1948550616673876>