

Response to Referees

I am very grateful to the four reviewers. I have responded to their suggestions in bold in the text, and this opportunity has vastly improved the paper.

1. A very insightful and succinctly written article, which emphasizes the need to view an individual with schizophrenia who (to quote from the article) "... just like everyone else and for identical half-rational, half-irrational reasons" will try to make changes to different aspects of his or her identity. The challenge, as pointed out by the eminent author, is to accept this need while protecting the person (and possibly others) from any harm that may result because of a decision made on the basis of clearly pathological disturbance of thinking.

My thanks and appreciation to the reviewer.

2. This is a worthwhile effort but the authors need to remember that not only is their sample size small & the study is a retrospective one (both acknowledged in the discussion), but it is also extremely difficult to control for all possible risk factors for schizophrenia in such a small sample of patients despite the use of a control group. Therefore, the authors should present this more as an exploratory study & perhaps be more cautious in their conclusions & recommendations.

I am not sure what the reviewer is referring to re the sample size and control group. I have now noted the tentative nature of the recommendations. Thank you.

3.

The article "Identity and Schizophrenia: Who Am I?" I can recommend for a publication in WJP. It needs some minor changes and explanations before publication. It represents well known facts from a new perspective. It needs some minor changes and explanations before publication:

Abstract The abstract is not enough informative. I do

suggest to include the core tips into the abstract.

I have expanded the abstract. Thank you for the suggestion.

Physical appearance Birmingham et al. (28) is a **too old** reference according to a massive tattooing of young people in the last decade. What about the form content of the tattoos as the persons with schizophrenia like strong and garish colours with uncommon or even bizarre configurations?

I have noted the dated nature of the Birmingham reference but could find no literature on form and colours of tattoos in schizophrenia. I have noted this. Thank you.

Overall I miss more clear differentiation on people with schizophrenia decisions in acute phase of illness in contrast to recovery phase.

Thank you for pointing this out. I have now noted that the patients referred to in the reviewed papers are relatively stable, no longer in the acute phase of their illness.

4.

This is an interesting review about an understudied aspect which is, in fact, of importance. In my opinion, the main limitation is that, despite being a relatively poorly studied field, it is not a systematic review.

This is true and I have now noted this.

But having said that, my overall impression is very good.

In my opinion, there are a few minor aspects that should be considered by the author. Most of them are just recommendations: - Title: The title is somehow misleading, since it conveys a broadness which does not match with the content of the manuscript, since this is narrowed-down to "the attempts to change core aspects of their identity". I strongly would recommend the author to consider a change in the title which conveys better the real content of her work.

I have changed the title. Thank you.

- Abstract: "Individuals with schizophrenia have difficulty at times deciding who they really are and make many attempt to change core aspects of their identity" I do not think that the expression "deciding who they are" is the most suitable, since identity is a really complex phenomenon which develops during the entire life. So I do not share the view that identity can be "decided" at any given point. I suggest other terms which convey better the meaning. One possible alternative: **"perceiving and defining their identity"** –

Thank you. This has been changed.

Core Tip: Everyone tries at times to change aspects of their identity. When people with schizophrenia do it, it should not be interpreted as delusional, although safety needs always to be kept in mind. I think that the expression "it should not be interpreted" should be precised, since there are patients whose wishes are indeed related to the illness. Therefore, my suggestion is: "it should not be **systematically** interpreted". –

Thank you. This has been changed.

Method: "...in the Google Scholar database". I think that

the author should acknowledge this as a limitation, just like the fact that it is not a systematic review. The limitations paragraph would probably be most suitable for this. Besides, it would be desirable that the author should state the reasons why the Google Scholar is a valid source, or at least why the PubMed is not necessary. –

I am not sure I understand this comment since the Google Scholar database includes the PubMed data set and several other data sets as well.

Physical appearance section: "...and the illness itself can significantly change a person's voice, accent, and language use, markedly affecting the responses of others (34-37) and, therefore, how one feels about oneself". Here the physical changes, including weight changes due to antipsychotic medication should be mentioned, given their high prevalence an impact on body image.

Thank you. This has been added.

? Typos: - Double space between words (marked here with an asterisk): The question with which * clinicians... ..their * limb or their genitals... .. individuals with * gender identity disorder... - An example of a tattoo motivated by a delusion is provided in á Campo et al. (29): As far as I know, the initial is not appropriate here. - bariatric surgery for morbid obesity (52,53)? The question mark should be omitted (I guess) - In * a study of 14 forensic

Thank you. These have been changed.