



## PEER-REVIEW REPORT

**Name of journal:** *World Journal of Clinical Cases*

**Manuscript NO:** 77521

**Title:** Effects of illness perception on negative emotions and fatigue in chronic rheumatic diseases: Rumination as a possible mediator

**Provenance and peer review:** Unsolicited Manuscript; Externally peer reviewed

**Peer-review model:** Single blind

**Reviewer's code:** 05817547

**Position:** Peer Reviewer

**Academic degree:** PhD

**Professional title:** Postdoctoral Fellow

**Reviewer's Country/Territory:** Iran

**Author's Country/Territory:** China

**Manuscript submission date:** 2022-05-05

**Reviewer chosen by:** AI Technique

**Reviewer accepted review:** 2022-05-21 08:16

**Reviewer performed review:** 2022-05-29 19:49

**Review time:** 8 Days and 11 Hours

<b>Scientific quality</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
<b>Language quality</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection
<b>Conclusion</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept (High priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<b>Re-review</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No



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Group**

7041 Koll Center Parkway, Suite  
160, Pleasanton, CA 94566, USA  
**Telephone:** +1-925-399-1568  
**E-mail:** bpgoffice@wjgnet.com  
**https://**www.wjgnet.com

<b>Peer-reviewer statements</b>	Peer-Review: [ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ] Anonymous [ <input type="checkbox"/> ] Onymous Conflicts-of-Interest: [ <input type="checkbox"/> ] Yes [ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ] No
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### **SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS**

In this manuscript, the authors have evaluated “Effects of illness perception on negative emotions and fatigue in chronic rheumatic diseases: Rumination as a possible mediator”. Overall, this manuscript provides valuable and valid data. I do not see any major issues in this manuscript; however, a few minor issues need to be addressed as pointed below: 1-The manuscript must be carefully proofread for grammar, spelling, and punctuation issues. 2- For the P value, please write the exact values (not  $p = 0.000?$ ). If the p values are too small, please write as a cut off values, eg.  $p < 0.00001$ . 3- It is recommended that authors improve the design of diagrams. 4- Use of newer references is recommended.



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**Provenance and peer review:** Unsolicited Manuscript; Externally peer reviewed

**Peer-review model:** Single blind

**Reviewer's code:** 05688164

**Position:** Peer Reviewer

**Academic degree:** BSc, MD, PhD

**Professional title:** Research Fellow

**Reviewer's Country/Territory:** Hungary

**Author's Country/Territory:** China

**Manuscript submission date:** 2022-05-05

**Reviewer chosen by:** Dong-Mei Wang

**Reviewer accepted review:** 2022-06-22 06:04

**Reviewer performed review:** 2022-06-29 10:26

**Review time:** 7 Days and 4 Hours

<b>Scientific quality</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
<b>Language quality</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection
<b>Conclusion</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept (High priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<b>Re-review</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No



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<b>Peer-reviewer statements</b>	Peer-Review: [ <input type="checkbox"/> ] Anonymous [ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ] Onymous Conflicts-of-Interest: [ <input type="checkbox"/> ] Yes [ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ] No
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## SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

29 June 2022 Review report on the manuscript titled 'Effects of illness perception on negative emotions and fatigue in chronic rheumatic diseases: Rumination as a possible mediator' by Lu Y et al, submitted to World Journal of Psychiatry Manuscript ID: 77521

Dear Authors, Lu and colleagues in the present case study entitled 'Effects of illness perception on negative emotions and fatigue in chronic rheumatic diseases: Rumination as a possible mediator', investigated the current status of knowledge of the association of multiple components of illness perception and psychological outcomes (like fatigue and negative emotions) in patients with chronic rheumatic diseases, as well as the potential mediating role of rumination in this relationship. Results showed that perceived identity, chronicity and consequences of illness were significantly associated with fatigue and negative emotions, and these associations were mediated by rumination. The main strength of this manuscript is that it addresses an interesting and timely question, providing a captivating interpretation and describing how rumination is a unique mediator between three components of illness perception, specifically, the identity, cyclical nature and consequences of illness, and negative emotions/fatigue. In general, I think the idea of this article is really interesting and the authors' fascinating observations on this timely topic may be of interest to the readers of World Journal of Psychiatry. However, some comments, as well as some crucial evidence that should be included to support the authors' argumentation, needed to be addressed to improve the quality of the manuscript, its adequacy, and its readability prior to the publication in the present form. My overall judgment is to publish this paper after the authors have carefully considered my suggestions below, in particular reshaping parts of the 'Introduction' and



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'Discussion' sections by adding more evidence. Please consider the following comments:

1. Abstract: Please proportionally present background, purpose, methods, results, and conclusion, as the 'Background' section is totally missing. 2. Introduction: The 'Introduction' section is well-written and nicely presented, with a good balance of information about psychological mechanisms that link rumination and illness perception. In this regard, to deepen the theoretical background of this article and to give a proper analysis of relationship between rumination and negative cognition, leading to a predisposing factor for depression, I would suggest to begin with a theoretical explanation of mood disorders, then a detailed description of pathogenesis of depression, with a particular focus on neural bases, and a description of core cognitive dysfunctions in patients with depression and, lastly, evidence for the effect of rumination on depression. Nevertheless, I believe that more information about dysfunctional brain circuits underlying depressive disorder would provide a better background here. Thus, I suggest the authors to make an effort to provide a brief overview of the pertinent published literature that offer a perspective on brain regions with altered activity and connectivity in depression, because as it stands, this information is not highlighted in the text. In this regard, I would recommend adding evidence on the implication of frontal lobe circuitry in altered fear extinction features in depressive disorder, with a focus on abnormalities in the ventromedial region of prefrontal cortex (vmPFC), whose smaller volume and altered activity patterns have been observed in patients with depressive disorder, highlighting how frontal lobe dysfunction affects these patients' memory and emotional learning capacity (<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41380-021-01326-4>; <https://doi.org/10.17219/acem/146756>; <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-018-31000-9>; <https://doi.org/10.3390/biomedicines10030627>; <https://doi.org/10.3390/cancers13184684>). 3. Introduction: In line with the previous suggested reference, I believe that it may be useful adding some evidence that focused



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on emotion dysregulation and pathophysiological and cognitive models of depressive disorder. In this regard, to provide a more coherent and defined background on this topic, I would suggest focusing on neural and chemical mechanisms underlying depression, for example examining the involvement of neurogenic inflammation and neuropeptides in the pathophysiology of psychiatric and neurological illnesses (<https://doi.org/10.3390/bs11080110>; <https://doi.org/10.3390/biomedicines9101313>; doi: 10.3389/fnbeh.2022.924305; <https://doi.org/10.3390/biomedicines9080897>; <https://doi.org/10.3390/biomedicines10010076>; <https://doi.org/10.3390/biomedicines9050517>; <https://doi.org/10.3390/biomedicines10040849>; DOI: 10.17219/acem/139572). 4. The objectives of this study are generally clear and to the point; however, I believe that there are some ambiguous points that require clarification or refining. In my opinion, the authors should be explicit on how they operationally assessed rumination and how they examined the association between negative emotions and fatigue and specific domains of illness perception. 5. Materials and Methods: Data about participants and information about clinical assessment for patients' selection are not adequately explained. For this reason, I would ask the authors to specify inclusion criteria for patients involved in this study, like severity of disorder and pharmacotherapy duration. 6. Statistical analyses: Could the authors better explain why they decided to use the hypotheses of mediation model? 7. Results: I suggest rewriting this section more accurately. To properly present experimental findings, I think that authors should provide full statistical details, to ensure in-depth understanding and replicability of the findings. 8. I think the 'Conclusions' paragraph would benefit from some thoughtful as well as in-depth considerations by the authors, because as it stands, it is very descriptive but not enough theoretical as a discussion should be. Authors should make an effort, trying to explain the theoretical implication as well as the translational application of



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**https://**[www.wjgnet.com](https://www.wjgnet.com)

their research. 9. Overall, I suggest submitting your work to an English native speaker to help with some grammar mistakes that can be found in different sections of the manuscript. Overall, the manuscript contains 5 tables, 3 figures and 89 references. I believe that this manuscript might carry important value describing how how perceived identity, cyclical nature, and consequences of illness are significantly associated with fatigue and negative emotions in patients with chronic rheumatic diseases and how these associations are mediated by rumination. I hope that, after these careful revisions, the manuscript can meet the Journal's high standards for publication. I am available for a new round of revision of this article. I declare no conflict of interest regarding this manuscript. Best regards, Reviewer