

REVIEWER'S REPORT

Manuscript No.: IJAR-51821

Date: 26-05-2025

Title: Misuse of anxiolytics among women with psychiatric disorders

Recommendation:

Accept as it is.....**YES**.....
 Accept after minor revision.....
 Accept after major revision
 Do not accept (*Reasons below*)

Rating	Excel.	Good	Fair	Poor
Originality		√		
Techn. Quality			√	
Clarity			√	
Significance		√		

Reviewer's Name: Dr Aamina

Reviewer's Decision about Paper: **Recommended for Publication.**

Comments (*Use additional pages, if required*)

Reviewer's Comment / Report

Title:

The title is concise, focused, and accurately reflects the scope and target population of the study. It clearly communicates the central theme — the misuse of anxiolytics among women with psychiatric disorders.

Introduction:

The introduction presents a clear and well-referenced overview of the concept of medication misuse, particularly in psychiatric contexts. The definition provided is precise and supported by relevant references. The narrative effectively emphasizes the public health significance of the issue by quantifying the prevalence and consequences of misuse, especially in relation to anxiolytics.

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The global and national (French) data on benzodiazepine misuse establish a strong epidemiological background. The higher prevalence of use among women and their increased vulnerability to adverse effects are clearly highlighted, supporting the rationale for a gender-specific investigation.

The linkage between psychiatric vulnerability, widespread anxiolytic use, and gender differences is articulated with clarity and coherence, establishing a strong foundation for the study's objectives.

Objectives:

The study objectives are well defined and appropriately broad to encompass both clinical and psychosocial dimensions. They aim to capture a multidimensional understanding of anxiolytic misuse by considering sociodemographic, familial, historical, and substance use variables. The inclusion of daily life impact adds a functional and quality-of-life component, enhancing the practical relevance of the research.

Materials and Methods:

The methodology section outlines the study design and setting with specificity. The retrospective and descriptive nature is clearly mentioned, and the time frame is well defined (March 2024 – March 2025).

The inclusion criteria — diagnosis per DSM-5 and follow-up at the specified hospital — provide a clear clinical scope. The use of the Severity of Dependence Scale (SDS) as an assessment tool introduces a standardized metric for quantifying misuse severity.

The use of SPSS for data analysis denotes an appropriate statistical approach. The variables to be collected are clearly enumerated, covering key demographic and clinical domains relevant to the objectives.

Overall Assessment:

The manuscript demonstrates a coherent and clinically significant research focus. It is grounded in a clear public health issue and utilizes a methodologically appropriate design. The introduction builds a strong case for the importance of the study, especially within a female

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psychiatric population. The objectives and methods are clearly stated and aligned, contributing to the overall integrity and relevance of the study.