Nursing Research Review Form

1st Review

Manuscript # 2006/075
Manuscript title: The mediating and moderating roles of the cognitive triad on adolescent suicidal ideation
Manuscript type: Regular
Number of text pgs.: 16
Number of figures: 1
Number of tables: 3
Reviewer: Sandra P. Thomas, PhD, RN, FAAN
Stat reviewer assigned?: No -- do you recommend a stat reviewer? YES

Please evaluate the following with these choices: (1) adequate, (2) inadequate (describe in written review) or (3) not appropriate (describe in written review)

- Problem statement: 1
- Attention to relevant literature: 2
- Theoretical framework: 1
- Research design: 1
- Data analysis: 2
- Discussion of results: 1
- Organization: 1
- Writing style: 1

Please rate the following topics 1-5 (with 5 being the highest rating):

- Value of topic: 4
- Probable reader interest in topic: 4
- Importance of present contribution to nursing: unable to judge, given problems with data analysis
- Priority of topic for publication: 3 (if revised appropriately)
- Rank this manuscript for its value: 3

Reviewer’s Recommendation (please type “X” after your choice):

Accept without revisions
Accept with revisions
Maybe accept with revisions X
Do not accept

Comments for Editor only:
I do advise a stat. reviewer for this manuscript.

Please provide a comprehensive and integrated review of this manuscript.
Be sure to present a balanced view of the manuscript's strengths and weaknesses.
Review of “The Mediating and Moderating Roles of the Cognitive Triad on Adolescent Suicidal Ideation”

I appreciate the opportunity to review this interesting paper. The topic is of great importance, as evidenced by objective #18-2, formulated by the United States Department of Health and Human Services, aimed at reduction of adolescent suicide attempts (Healthy People 2010). The manuscript is generally well-written and clear, except for awkward phrasing in a few places. The sample size is quite adequate, and the theoretical basis is sound.

My primary concern with the manuscript is the choice of a normal, non-suicidal population to study suicidal ideation. Logically, it seems that researchers should seek to study suicidal ideation in persons who have it. Scores on depressive symptoms and suicidal ideation are quite low in this sample of Taiwanese adolescents. For example, scores on the depression instrument can be as high as 54; the mean score of this sample is only 13.92. Scores on suicidal ideation can be as high as 70 (if my math is correct), yet the average score of the sample is 28. There is no mention in the manuscript that the sample is basically a non-depressed, non-suicidal sample. Without information on the full range of scores, it is not possible to ascertain the degree of skewness in the data, but skewness is extremely problematic for correlation and regression work (I refer the authors to Tabachnick and Fidell for a great discussion of this matter).

I have a couple of other observations. The statement that “adolescents who appear to have suicidal ideation have not attracted attention of mental health professionals” is untrue. There has been a tremendous amount of attention to this problem in professional journals, at least in the United States and Japan (I do not know about Taiwan). That brings me to my next observation: The literature review needs to be updated. Except for a few 2003 references (and one 2004), recent literature has not been included. Given that this paper, if published, would have a 2007 publication date, readers would expect 2005 and 2006 references. Finally, a very minor matter: Confidentiality and anonymity are two different things. Either data are collected completely anonymously or the researchers should speak in terms of keeping the data confidential.