




# Understanding Treatment Resistance in Depression

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## 1. Round 1

### 1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

Expand the description of participant selection criteria to include more details on the diagnostic criteria for TRD used, as well as any exclusion criteria. This will help in assessing the representativeness and applicability of the findings.

Provide a more detailed explanation of how the interview questions were developed, including any basis in existing literature or prior studies. This could improve the reliability and validity of the interview process.

The manuscript should describe the coding process in greater detail. Clarify who performed the coding, whether multiple coders were used, how discrepancies were resolved, and if any software features (like coding stripes or query tools) were specifically utilized to aid in theme identification.

Some subthemes in the results section seem underexplored or inadequately supported by participant quotes. Each subtheme should be robustly supported with multiple perspectives or data points to ensure depth and reliability of the findings.

Expand the discussion on practical and policy implications of the findings. Specifically, address how these insights can translate into improved treatment protocols or healthcare policies for TRD.

Response: Revised and uploaded the manuscript.

## 1.2. Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

The introduction could benefit from a clearer delineation between general depression and treatment-resistant depression (TRD). Adding epidemiological data on the prevalence of TRD in populations treated for depression could provide necessary context and strengthen the study's rationale.

The discussion could be improved by including a more thorough comparison with existing research, particularly recent studies on alternative and adjunctive treatments for TRD. This will contextualize the findings within the current scientific debate and highlight the study's unique contributions.

While the manuscript states that confidentiality was maintained, it would be beneficial to include specific measures taken to ensure the anonymity of the transcripts and data, especially when dealing with sensitive topics like mental health.

Refine the abstract to more succinctly summarize the key findings and their implications. Ensure that it reflects the complexity of TRD as explored in the study and highlights the novel aspects of the findings.

Update the literature review to include references from the past three years, ensuring that the discussion is anchored in the most current research, particularly concerning the efficacy of new TRD treatments.

Response: Revised and uploaded the manuscript.

## 2. Revised

Editor's decision after revisions: Accepted.

Editor in Chief's decision: Accepted.