



REVIEWER'S REPORT

Manuscript No.: IJAR-56797

Title: Factors Leading to Relapse in Substance Use Disorder Patients – A Cross-Sectional Study.

Recommendation:

Accept after major revision

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

Reviewer's ID: JPR-198

Detailed Reviewer's Report

The study addresses an important and clinically relevant topic. However, there are methodological inconsistencies, reporting gaps, and interpretational issues that must be addressed before the manuscript can be considered for publication.

Title Improvement

Current:

“Factors leading to relapse...”

Suggested:

“Factors associated with relapse among patients with substance use disorder: a cross-sectional study”

Major Comments

1. **Fundamental contradiction in study objective vs design**

The study claims “To estimate the proportion of relapse”; However, Inclusion criteria require only patients who already relapsed. One cannot estimate relapse proportion using a pre-selected relapse-only sample. This is a critical methodological flaw.

2. Out of 680 screened → 530 relapse → only 100 included; No explanation provided for why only 100 were selected beyond “consenting”

3. Only p-values are reported. Authors must include Odds ratios and Confidence intervals.

International Journal of Advanced Research

Publisher's Name: Jana Publication and Research LLP

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4. Relapse definition not operationalized. It is defined conceptually, but authors mention clear criteria of Time frame, Frequency, Substance-specificity.
5. Key variables like craving and stress are not assessed using validated tools.
6. There is inconsistency between exclusion of psychiatric illness and inclusion of psychiatric comorbidity.
7. Results are not supported with tables or detailed data presentation.
8. Ethical approval and informed consent details are missing.