

INTRODUCTION

The theoretical debate proposed for this integrative review involves concepts that have been underexplored in both **Conventional Sports Psychology** and **Esports Psychology**: the therapeutic relationship between psychologist and athlete. Although widely studied in **Clinical Psychology**, there are few works delving into this aspect of the sports experience.

Significant differences are observed in the sports experience, especially when compared to clinical practice. Similar to traditional sports, there is room for psychological intervention and support in esports. Psychologists can work in various capacities within this context (*Cottrell, McMillen, & Harris, 2019; Vaamonde & Chirivella, 2020*). **The institutionalization of Esports** is increasingly evident, with organizations and sponsors prioritizing player well-being and health. Consequently, the presence of psychologists within teams is becoming more established (*Hong, 2022*).

Considering this opportunity, the relationship between esports players and practitioners is crucial, offering the potential for positive and fruitful interventions.

OBJECTIVES

Assess concepts that have been relatively underexplored in both traditional sports psychology and electronic sports psychology: the therapeutic relationship between practitioner and athlete. Although this topic has been extensively studied in clinical psychology, there is a paucity of research on it in sports' science, and even more in esports science.

It is essential to ponder the relationship between electronic sports players and psychologists as one of the avenues for bringing benefits through practical interventions.

METHODS

Through an **integrative review** (*Souza et al., 2010*) of these concepts, providing a synthesis of knowledge built latterly, thinking about the applicability of said studies in sports' science, especially esports. Structured as it follows.

GUIDING QUESTION:
How is the therapeutic alliance structured in esports?

**SEARCHING AND
SAMPLING THE
LITERATURE**

**DATA
COLLECTION**

**CRITICAL
ANALYSIS**

**DISCUSSION
OF RESULTS**

**PRESENTATION OF
INTEGRATIVE REVIEW**

RESULTS

Noteworthy works by *Petitpas, Giges, and Danish (1999)*, *Winstone and Gervis (2006)*, *Andersen and Tod (2012)*, *Andersen and Kolt (2004)*, *Sharp and Hodge (2013)*, *Sharp and Hodge (2014)*, and *Moore (2021)* contribute to our understanding. These studies not only highlight the distinction between the experiences of clinical psychologists and sports psychologists but also **extend the exploration of therapeutic relationships beyond concepts such as transference and countertransference.**

Not only that, but the **benefits of nurturing a positive therapeutic relationship for athletes' performance** are also considered.

CONCLUSIONS

Even though there are few studies in the field of sports psychology specifically addressing this topic, and even fewer within the realm of electronic sports, it remains a subject of significant discussion among psychologists working in both areas. **Particularly considering that the fundamental tool of this profession lies in the relationship between both parts, the need for further exploration of this theme is evident.**

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