

While experiential avoidance (ExA) is an umbrella term which represents the natural human tendency to avoid all kinds of threatening and uncomfortable cues, ExA most commonly applies to the avoidance of emotional experiences, i.e., emotional avoidance (EA; Hayes et al., 1996). Bardeen et al. (2015) pointed out the need to build upon existing research focused on the relation between anxiety sensitivity (AS), a possible vulnerability factor, and PTSD symptom severity by the moderating role of EA and ExA. The aim of the present study was to clarify and differentiate the moderating roles of ExA and EA between AS and PTSD symptom severity in a sample of 216 trauma-exposed undergraduate students (64.8% female, age $M = 19.5$ years). Using the PROCESS macro, results indicated that ExA significantly moderated the relations between all three subscales, physical ($t = 2.61, p < .01, \Delta R^2 = .013$), cognitive ($t = 2.78, p < .01, \Delta R^2 = .013$), and social ($t = 2.37, p = .02, \Delta R^2 = .011$) of AS and PTSD symptom severity. Both positive EA and negative EA failed to significantly moderate the relation between AS and PTSD symptom severity. The results emphasize the differential role of various types of avoidance strategies in the context of AS and PTSD symptom severity.