






# Comparison of the Effectiveness of Acceptance and Commitment Group Therapy and Pharmacotherapy on Reducing Non-Motor Symptoms in Parkinson's Disease Patients

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## 1. Round 1

### 1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

"Over the past generation, the number of individuals with Parkinson's has more than doubled (Dorsey & Elbaz, 2018)." Please clarify the geographic scope of this statistic. Does it refer to a global trend or specific regions?

The explanation of ACT lacks a clear definition of psychological flexibility. Please include a more explicit description, as this term is fundamental to the therapy's framework.

Specify how participants' adherence to inclusion and exclusion criteria was verified. Were there additional screening methods employed beyond self-reported information?

The significance level for the interaction effect is reported as 0.047. Discuss the clinical relevance of this p-value and whether it warrants cautious interpretation, especially given the modest effect size.

The study found significant improvements. Discuss potential confounding factors that might have influenced these outcomes, such as patient expectations or the placebo effect, especially in a quasi-experimental design.

The results show improvement but are accompanied by a relatively high standard deviation. Please interpret this variability and consider whether it could impact the reliability of the findings.

Authors revised and uploaded the document.

### 1.2. Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

"Early diagnosis of Parkinson's is challenging as there are no laboratory tests, such as blood tests or brain scans, for diagnosis (Jankovic, 2008)." Consider updating this reference with more recent studies on diagnostic advancements, as this data may be outdated.

The metaphor-based descriptions in the ACT sessions are well-illustrated. However, consider explaining why these specific metaphors are relevant to Parkinson's patients to highlight their therapeutic rationale.

The session exercises are outlined in detail. However, it would be beneficial to reference the theoretical foundations (e.g., relational frame theory) more explicitly to connect the exercises with ACT principles.

When describing the use of repeated measures ANOVA, elaborate on why the Greenhouse-Geisser criterion was chosen. Were there violations of the sphericity assumption that warranted this adjustment?

The table is informative but could be enhanced by adding confidence intervals for each mean. This would provide a more comprehensive view of the variability in symptom improvement.

You mention, "No previous studies were found on the effectiveness of ACT on non-motor symptoms." This makes the research sound novel. Include a critique on the limitations of existing studies on ACT for Parkinson's, even if indirectly related.

The narrative emphasizes ACT's superiority. Discuss the potential for combination therapy and any existing literature that might support an integrated approach to treatment.

Authors revised and uploaded the document.

## 2. Revised

Editor's decision after revisions: Accepted.

Editor in Chief's decision: Accepted.