


Comparison of the Effectiveness of Mindfulness-Based Cognitive Therapy and Transdiagnostic Treatment on Fear of Happiness in Mothers of Children with Autism

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1. Round 1

1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

While fear of happiness is well conceptualized, the manuscript would benefit from a brief mechanistic model explicitly linking fear of happiness to caregiving stress in ASD mothers, rather than only citing general emotional processes.

Please add partial eta squared interpretation benchmarks (e.g., small, medium, large) to contextualize the effect size $\eta^2 = .626$ for readers.

The manuscript states “ $p < .05$ ” when reporting the MBCT–Transdiagnostic comparison, whereas the table shows $p < .001$. Please correct this inconsistency.

The sentence “changes in fear of happiness cannot be attributed to chance” is statistically imprecise. Replace with language reflecting probability and inference (e.g., “unlikely under the null hypothesis”).

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the document.

1.2. Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

The transition from transdiagnostic mechanisms to the specific target variable (fear of happiness) is conceptually correct but underdeveloped. Please include an explicit theoretical bridge explaining why fear of happiness is particularly amenable to transdiagnostic modification.

The justification “a minimum sample size of 15 participants per group is recommended (Delavar, 2009)” is outdated for experimental standards. Please report an a priori power analysis (e.g., effect size assumption, α , power) to justify sample adequacy.

The statement “with consideration of the necessary assumptions” is vague. Please explicitly report assumption testing results for ANCOVA: homogeneity of regression slopes, Levene’s test, normality, and independence.

Although Shapiro–Wilk tests are reported, graphical diagnostics (Q–Q plots or histograms) are not mentioned. Please indicate whether visual inspections confirmed normality.

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the document.

2. Revised

Editor’s decision: Accepted.

Editor in Chief’s decision: Accepted.