




The Effectiveness of Cognitive-Behavioral Couple Therapy on Marital Intimacy and Marital Satisfaction

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| E d i t o r | R e v i e w e r s |
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1. Round 1

1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

In the Measures section, the description of the Couples' Intimacy Questionnaire lacks detail about the scoring of subscales; consider including how subscale scores were used in the analysis, or clarify if only total scores were analyzed.

In the Intervention description, the authors mention session content, but do not report therapist qualifications or training protocol; adding this would increase transparency and credibility.

The Data Analysis section mentions testing statistical assumptions but does not report specific statistics (e.g., K-S test results). Including exact p-values or test statistics would improve scientific rigor.

In Table 1, the pre-test means between experimental and control groups are slightly different. The authors should report whether these differences were statistically tested for baseline equivalence.

In the Results section, the authors state, "All indicators were significant at the level of $p \leq .01$," but exact p-values or confidence intervals would enhance clarity and interpretability.

In the Limitations section, the authors mention the sample being from one city; further elaboration on potential differences in urban vs. rural settings, or religious/cultural variability, would be insightful.

The suggestion in the Future Research section to include moderators (gender, attachment style, socio-economic status) is strong; consider also suggesting investigation into potential mediators (e.g., change in maladaptive schemas).

Response: Revised and uploaded the manuscript.

1.2. Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

In the Introduction, while discussing CBCT mechanisms, the sentence "CBCT emphasizes the interplay of cognitions, emotions, and behaviors..." would benefit from more explicit connection to theoretical frameworks (e.g., cognitive theory of relational schemas).

The Methods section states, "30 couples were selected through purposive sampling..." — it would be valuable to clarify the specific inclusion and exclusion criteria applied during selection to ensure replicability.

The authors report effect sizes (Eta Squared) but do not discuss thresholds for interpretation (small, medium, large). Adding such benchmarks would aid reader understanding.

In the Discussion, the authors state, "These findings are strongly consistent with previous studies..." without explicitly discussing possible contradictions in the literature; a more balanced perspective would improve scientific quality.

In the Discussion paragraph referencing Epstein & Zheng (2017), the authors mention "maladaptive interaction patterns" but do not tie this directly to observed improvements in the current study; making this link explicit would strengthen the argument.

The mention of cultural context (Iranian couples) in the Discussion is valuable, but would benefit from discussion of how sociocultural norms might have influenced participants' response to CBCT specifically.

2. Revised

Editor's decision after revisions: Accepted.

Editor in Chief's decision: Accepted.