

The Effectiveness of Schema Therapy on Post-traumatic Growth and Self-Compassion in Women with Breast Cancer

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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 paragraph beginning with “Breast cancer not only confronts women with existential threats...”, consider expanding on how specific maladaptive schemas (e.g., defectiveness/shame) are activated during cancer diagnosis and treatment. This would enhance the theoretical connection to schema therapy.

The final sentence of the Introduction states: “This study aims to fill that gap...” Consider specifying what makes this study unique (e.g., inclusion of follow-up, use in Iranian women) to clearly articulate the contribution.

In Table 2, the partial eta squared values are quite large (e.g., .78). Consider discussing in the Results section whether these effect sizes are typical for psychological interventions or may suggest overestimation due to small sample size.

In the paragraph beginning with “The enhancement of self-compassion in the intervention group...”, the authors could further elaborate on how schema therapy specifically influences the development of self-compassion (e.g., through mode work or imagery).

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the document.

1.2. Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

The sentence “A systematic review of schema-based treatments for trauma-related conditions has demonstrated improvements...” could benefit from identifying the number or type of studies reviewed by Peeters et al. (2022) to strengthen the argument for a research gap.

The sentence “Research has also highlighted the mediating role of self-compassion...” in the fifth paragraph might be more impactful if the author briefly explained why self-compassion acts as a mediator (e.g., through emotional regulation or cognitive reframing).

The article lacks visual figures (e.g., line graphs) to represent changes in PTG and self-compassion over time. Including such visuals would enhance interpretability and reader engagement.

In the sentence “Shapiro-Wilk tests indicated...”, consider reporting the exact test values (W and p) for each variable at each time point to promote statistical transparency.

The sentence “These findings collectively suggest that schema therapy strengthens self-compassion...” could be enriched by integrating dual-process models or emotion regulation theory to ground the discussion in broader psychological theory.

In the “Limitations and Suggestions” section, the authors note reliance on self-report but do not suggest alternatives. Including suggestions such as clinician-rated outcomes or behavioral assessments would show methodological foresight.

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the document.

2. Revised

Editor’s decision: Accepted.

Editor in Chief’s decision: Accepted.