Reviewer's report

**Title:** Group Cognitive Behavior Therapy for Japanese Patients with Social Anxiety Disorder: Preliminary Outcomes and Their Predictors

**Version:** 2  **Date:** 2 November 2007

**Reviewer:** Ewa Mörtberg

**Reviewer's report:**

General
The revised manuscript of this study of a Western CBT programme in a Japanese sample (n=57) is improved in several aspects. The background is expanded and the authors have stated the preliminary status of results. Significant limitations of the study, which make it more difficult to decide about treatment effect, have been further discussed.

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**Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)**

The authors have responded to the comments with accurate revisions.

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**Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)**

The authors have responded to the comments with accurate revisions.

Table 1 is a bit unclear.
My suggestion was to put m (SD) and n(%) after the text in the first column (delete the first row). For example:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age (years), m (SD)</th>
<th>30.4 (10.3)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gender, n (%)</td>
<td>Male 28 (49.1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Female etc.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)**

The authors have revised the ms according to the comments.

Table 2: My suggestion was to indicate P-values in the table by symbols, followed by a table note(Note: *** P< 0.001 ** P< 0.01) etc.)
Possibly the authors want to comment on the fact that the present group treatment programme (11-20 sessions) including 3-4 patients and 2 therapists is very different from most reported group CBT programmes (fixed sessions, 6-8 patients). In comparison, this treatment seems to be highly individualized and patients seem to get more treatment.

**What next?:** Accept after minor essential revisions

**Level of interest:** An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

**Quality of written English:** Needs some language corrections before being published

**Statistical review:** No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests