Reviewer's report

Title: A comparison of low-dose risperidone to paroxetine in the treatment of panic attacks: a randomized single-blind study.

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Reviewer: Michael J Zvolensky

Reviewer's report:

This is an interesting and timely report. The manuscript is generally well-written, and, addresses a clinical relevant topic. I have just a few observations that may be useful to consider in further refining the paper.

1. I would suggest adding more of a theoretical perspective as to why Risperidone would be an efficacious treatment option for persons with panic attacks. Currently, the rationale for the study is largely empirical-driven, which is of course great, but a theoretical explication would be helpful, too.

2. I would encourage the authors to enhance the contextualization of the observed effects vis a vis effect size and their practical meaningfulness in the Discussion Section.

3. I could not fully ascertain the relative degree of psychiatric comorbidity among the participants. Perhaps a table that denotes primary, secondary, and tertiary diagnoses would be useful?

4. What percentage of the sample were cigarette smokers? Given linkages between smoking and panic attacks, this information would perhaps be useful to clarify.

5. The measures employed are presented rather briefly. I would encourage the authors to add more psychometric information regarding their performance in the Method Section.

6. Did the findings vary by gender? I could not fully ascertain this issue while reading the report.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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

Declaration of competing interests:

I have no competing interests.