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Perspectives on the use of Acceptance and Commitment Therapy related apps: Results from a survey of students and professionals

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Perspectives on the use of Acceptance and Commitment Therapy related apps: Results from a

survey of students and professionals

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Abstract

Although mobile apps have proliferated as self-help or adjunctive therapy supports, scant

research has explored their implementation among mental health practitioners. Little is known

about uses and perceptions of mental health apps among applied practitioners, nor are agreed-

upon criteria for evaluating and choosing apps available. The present survey study examined the

uses and perceptions of mental health apps among 356 professionals and students familiar with

Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT), as indicated by being a member of the

Association for Contextual Behavioral Science. The survey found that practitioners are interested

in using ACT-related apps, but that use of and familiarity with apps is low. As rated by

participants, the most helpful app functions pertained to supporting out-of-session skills practice

and the maintenance of therapy gains. The greatest barriers to app use included little guidance as

to what apps to choose, app contents that are inconsistent with ACT, and ethical concerns related

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