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INTRODUCTION: While numerous studies have investigated the role of genetic variation in predicting response to psychotropic medications, none has examined whether genes influence response to CBT treatment. OBJECTIVES: The aim of this study was to evaluate the role of variants in 7 genes previously implicated in the etiology or treatment of anxiety: BDNF, CREB1, RGS2, CRHR1, SLC6A4, HTR2A, HTR1A and CBT response.METHODS: Seventy-eight Caucasian patients with symptomatic PD received group CBT for 12 weeks. Baseline illness severity was assessed using the Clinical Global Improvement (CGI) scale, and treatment response was indexed by change in CGI at the end of treatment and at 1-year follow-up. We examined HapMap single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) within each gene and 10 kb flanking sequence. SNPs were selected using Tagger to capture variation across each gene, which yielded a total of 47 Tag SNPs. For SLC6A4, we examined the 5HTTLPR promoter variation including the embedded SNP (rs25531). Association analysis were done using PLINK. RESULTS: Three SNPs in and around CRHR1 gene showed nominal evidence of association with acute response to CBT (strongest result for rs12938031, with a permuted p-value of 0.016). Three SNPs in and around CREB1 were associated with improvement at 1-year follow-up, including rs7594560, permuted p = 0.026. We did not observe association between CBT outcome and variants in the remaining genes.CONCLUSION: Although these findings require replication in larger samples, they provide the first evidence that variations in CREB1 and CRHR1 may be related to response to CBT among patients with PD.