Author's response to reviews

Title: Exploratory randomized controlled trial evaluating the impact of a waiting list control design

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Arlene Pura,

We are happy that the reviews were generally very positive for our manuscript and that we have the opportunity to provide you a revised version taking into account the reviewers’ comments. The following revisions have been made.

From the editor:

1) The name of the specific ethics committee is provided at the end of the Ethics section on page 5 (i.e., the standing ethics committee of the Centre for Addictions and Mental Health).

From reviewer 1:

2) Point 1.1. An expanded discussion of the potential impact of recruiting using a newspaper advertisement (as opposed to proactive recruitment) is now provided in the second to last paragraph of the discussion (page 12).

3) 1.2. More details are now provided as to the recruitment method and follow-up procedures.

4) 1.3.1 We have now included a flow chart (Figure 2) outlining the recruitment and follow-up rates for the trial. In addition, Table 2 has been modified so that it now presents baseline and follow-up drinking variables by condition and Action scale scores (median split). 1.3.2 The sample sizes listed on Table 2 have now been corrected.

5) 2.1 A flow chart with dropout rates is now included (Figure 2).

6) 2.2 We have now re-conducted the analysis incorporating an intent-to-treat approach. As the reviewer suggested (and because the pattern of results does not change), the fact that these analyses were conducted in noted in footnote 1 (page 7) but the analyses themselves are not presented in the manuscript.

7) 3.1 The R^2 change values listed on Table 1 are the relevant effect size estimate for the regression analysis employed.

8) 3.2 We have now included the information that compensation was mentioned in the newspaper advertisement. (bottom of page 4)

From reviewer 2:

9) Table 2 now has the correct sample sizes listed. In addition the labels of Table 2 have been clarified and the Table also contains more information on the baseline drinking characteristics of the participants, separated by condition.

10) The last sentence of the penultimate paragraph in the Discussion has been replaced with an expanded discussion of the potential impact of recruiting using a newspaper advertisement.

We hope that these revisions now make this manuscript suitable for publication. We look forward to hearing from you.

Best regards,

John Cunningham