Reviewer’s report

Title: Prediction of symptomatic improvement after exposure-based treatment for irritable bowel syndrome.

Version: 2 Date: 11 October 2013

Reviewer: Wijnand Laan

Reviewer’s report:

Major Compulsory Revisions:
None

Minor Essential Revisions:

1. Trial registration should not go into the abstract section, now it appears like the paper describes a trial. Just add it to the methods section like this: This study included 79 self-referred participants with a diagnosis of IBS who had participated in a randomized controlled study (ClinicalTrials.gov: NCT01171053) of ICBT for IBS, where they were randomized to either treatment (n=39) or waiting list control (n=40) for 10 weeks [27].

2. The 'sentence' starting on line 2, page 7 does not make any grammatical sense: 'Trial registration ClinicalTrials.gov NCT01171053'. Please rephrase it so it contains at least one verb.

3. Line 24, page 16: The sentence reads like the main conclusion of the paper is the fact that study is important (We believe the findings of the present study to be important). I think the conclusions should be related to the results, not to whether the study itself is important or not).

4. I feel the conclusion of a paper should be limited to a few lines only as is it should present only the conclusion. Now the authors present a discussion within the conclusions (line 6 and 7, page 17: However, it is possible that (....)). I would strongly suggest to limit the number of lines in the conclusion section to a maximum of five.

Discretionary Revisions:

5. Line 11 page 5: GSA should not be included in the [brackets] of the reference but (get their own). This is repeated on further on in the paper several times, I do not think is proper referencing to include the abbreviation in the citation brackets as this is commonly done with author names. I will not make further remarks regarding this.

6. The sentence starting on line 12, page 6 is obsolete given the sentence starting on line 6 of the same page.
7. Line 12 page 7 (and throughout the whole paper): Table is not to be written with a capital T.

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

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**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