Reviewer's report

Title: Hypnosis in Pediatrics: Applications at a Pediatric Pulmonary Center

Authors:

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Reviewer: Dr Tannis Laidlaw

Level of interest: not specified

Advice on publication: Other (see below)

This paper describes an audit in a pediatric pulmonary center of all patients who were approached with the aim of using hypnosis to complement usual treatment (n = 303, reporting on 254 of them - all those available for follow-up). Overall, it is an interesting paper that should encourage other pediatricians to train in therapeutic hypnosis and selectively offer it to suitable patients.

Dr Anbar's style of hypnosis is one of permissive sharing of an interesting set of experiences, an approach that is well-suited to the success of this technique when using it with children. His descriptions of deepening, in particular, are to be commended - he doesn't make the usual mistake of having fun with his own imagination and describing what is in his own mind, but allows the child to form his/her own images, which arguably, are much more real to the child and perhaps even more effective.

Discretionary revisions

Although it is considered proper to use the third person when referring to oneself in a scientific article, the extended incident described in the Introduction reads better if put into the first person. For example, paragraph 2: 'As a pediatric pulmonologist, I previously had not encountered...' instead of 'His pediatric pulmonologist previously had not encountered...' then finding out later that the author was 'his pediatric pulmonologist'.

P4
4th para: 'may have a psychological component' instead of 'be due to psychological reasons'

P6
1st para: I would insert the word 'to' into the beginning of the various clauses listed. E.g. 'to imagine descent in an elevator' etc. for readability reasons.
4th para: Perhaps insert in a sentence that explains that you are giving the child control of the situation as they are gently guided into an absorbed state.

Compulsory revisions

Abstract:
The 'results' paragraph is confusing with your use of '81%' and later, '80%'. To understand what it all meant, I had to go to the paper itself - reason enough for a revision of the wording. Maybe the last sentence of the paragraph could be at the beginning, and the first sentence deleted.
P4:
first sentence: nature of hypnosis
5th para: hypnosis in medical practice is often called medical hypnosis, so the use of 'medical'
meaning, I presume, 'pharmacological' is confusing (for instance 'However, use of hypnosis
sometimes can replace medical therapy...' and others).

P5
4th para: should be inserted just after ref 12: something like... 'and, indeed, of their acceptance of
the hypnotherapeutic process' or words to that effect.

P8
1st para: A reference for the numb-hands technique would be helpful for the readers.
Last para: The word 'audit' should be inserted somewhere here. Perhaps also in the abstract.

P10
1st para of Discussion: 'complementary' for 'supplemental' - it is becoming the standardized
descriptor for therapies that are in addition to standard care.

P12
4th para: when describing where one can go for training, it is necessary to say the directives
provided are for those in the United States only. As there is an international readership, please
change this by stating these organisations are for the US, and that similar member organisations of
the International Society of Hypnosis provide training workshops for doctors, dentists and
psychologists world-wide.

Competing interests:

None declared.