Reviewer's report

Title: Chronic Depression: Development and Evaluation of the Luebeck Questionnaire for Recording Preoperational Thinking (LQPT)

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Reviewer: iris liwowsky

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When reading the article first thing that stands out is the very clear and precise language.

The abstract conveys all important information. The question is well defined and the theoretical background is sufficiently delineated.

Also the construction of the preliminary form of the LQPT and the definition of what preoperational thinking means are well done.

I see room for some improvement in the evaluation part:

- Sample: The power analysis should be described with more detail. The source of the preliminary data (page 6, line 4) is unclear. What effect size has been selected (Cohen's f2?) and which software (e.g., G*Power) to compute the power analysis?

- Page 9, lines 16-17: The authors mention a variance analysis, but present the statistic of the Welsh test. The Welsh test is a significance test for mean differences of two groups in the case of unequal variances. Instead, the results of an ANOVA should be given.

Moreover, it is unclear which tests have been chosen for the post-hoc comparisons. Did the authors use Scheffé's test or the test by Tamhane?

- Page 11, lines 7-9: The authors wrote that a “factor analysis resulted in no clear and meaningful multifactorial solution”. It will be important to present the main results of this factor analysis in the “Results” section.

The discussion of results is sound and contains the necessary limitations like need for replication in other patient samples. An important point here is the question whether preoperational thinking is specific in chronically depressed patients or maybe also seen in different patient groups with general impairment.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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