Author’s response to reviews

Title: Repetition of suicide attempts across episodes of severe depression
Behavioural sensitisation found in suicide group but not in controls

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Repetition of suicide attempts across episodes of severe depression Behavioural sensitisation found in suicide group but not in controls
Louise Brådvik and Mats Berglund

Reviewer 1
We submit the article now published in ASR. This article deals with the difference occurrence of suicide attempts in unipolar versus bipolar disorder during the course of depressive episodes. The distinction between initial and repeated attempts was never made, and the kindling phenomenon was not discussed. Thus the present paper is distinguished from that paper.

Reviewer 2
(All changes are red in the new version and excluded text blue in the previous version)

Abstract
“across the episodes” has been changed to “across the depressive episodes”
The “adequate treatment” reference has been excluded.

Background
1st § “if there were” is changed to “if there is”
2nd § 2 references by Kessing are added.
4th § “examines” has been changed to “examined”
4th § has been moved the end of the 3rd.
2nd page
1st § 1st 2 sentences have been moved to methods.
4th and 5th sentences: all through the paper we have changed the term “suicide” to either “suicide group” or “death by suicide” or something like that to avoid this
term, as proposed by reviewer 2 and 3.
6th § “proposed” has been changed to “hypothesized”.

Material and method
Sample
“up to the death of the suicide” has been changed to “chosen to be alive at the suicide death of the persons they matched”
Course of depression…
“accomplished” has been replaced with “completed”.

3rd § “broad definition of self-harm…. ” Now on p 7 1st line “what Motto [35] called suicidal gestures”, has now been added.
4th § data have been moved to the result section.

Discussion
1st sentence has been rewritten
A § with clinical implications has been added on p 11.

Reviewer 3
Depressives and suicides have been changed to persons with depression, suicide deaths a s o all through the paper.
The sample, para 2 “depression/melancholia” has been added (p 5 3rd §)
“Accomplished” has been changed to “death by”
Please clarify state which/whose definition of self-harm..
P 6-7 green text has been added for clarification and a passage has been added in the discussion (p 11 last §) “suicide attempt” is now a separate § earlier in the paper.
The word “suicide” in background has been changed to those who died by suicide.
The sample, likewise has been changed to “deaths by suicide”.
§ 4 has been changed to “The controls chosen to be alive at the suicide death of the persons they matched” p 6 1st §.
b. you discuss behavioural sensitisation… the references suggested have been added in Background p 3-4, which certainly gives more substance…
Course of depression p7, last § has been rewritten and the fact that all controls were followed up to 2006 has been added.
The Kreitman reference has been excluded, see below!

Other changes:
P7 which includes rates of serious and violent suicide attempts. In the first version the total sample of 100 suicides was considered, but including unipolar
depression only (n=80) appear more appropriate. Furthermore, the distinction between minor and major repeaters is not made in this paper (major repetition is uncommon in the unipolar group, 2 females in the suicide group and 2 in the control group).

All the references have been corrected.

“year of birth, and index admission year”, has been added on p 6 1st § for clarity of the matching.