Author's response to reviews

Title: The feasibility and validity of ambulatory self-report of psychotic symptoms using a smartphone software application.

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Version: 5 Date: 17 September 2012

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Thanks to David Kimhy for raising the following point:

Reviewers' comment: The authors satisfactorily addressed a number of the reviewers' suggestions. However, one fundamental issue remains problematic, namely the presentation of the study as validating a mobile phone technology. The authors clearly state that the communication component of the phones was not used. However, the inclusion of 'mobile phone' in the title and abstract is misleading. It's akin to stating that one is testing a flying car by driving it around (without actually flying it) and then pronouncing it a functional flying car. New technologies often face technical problems in their initial presentation. Until the "phone" component of this system is tested and validated as being functional and stable, the current study essentially tested the use of a “smarter” PDA. Given this state, the current study does not add much over the numerous previous studies that used PDAs and electronic devices over the past few years to assess psychosis and other symptoms in individuals with schizophrenia spectrum disorders. This point is even truer given the relatively lack of information about the participants' recruitment.

We have now replaced mobile phone with 'smartphone software application' in the title and abstract. We feel that this term accurately describes the technology that we have developed.

Title:

'The feasibility and validity of ambulatory self-report of psychotic symptoms using a smartphone software application.'p1

Abstract:

'We report on a monitoring system for the assessment of psychosis using smartphone technology.'p3

'Ambulatory monitoring of symptoms several times daily using smartphone software applications represents a feasible and valid way of assessing psychotic phenomena for research and clinical management purposes.'p4

With best wishes,

The research team.