Reviewer's report

Title: Internet-delivered attention training in individuals with social anxiety disorder - a double blind randomized controlled trial

Version: 1  Date: 20 January 2012

Reviewer: Elske Salemink

Reviewer's report:

The current study has a nice double-blind randomized controlled design to examine whether an internet-delivered attention bias modification training can affect social anxiety in individuals with social anxiety disorder. Despite promising previous studies, the current study failed to replicate those previous findings. As the study has a good design, sufficient number of participants, and a well-established method of training, the current null-findings are of importance in the field.

Major Compulsory Revisions

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Minor essential revisions

Method section, Treatment and Placebo paragraph

Some information regarding the training is missing.
1) it is explained that participants receive 160 trials in each session and 128 of those trials contained a neutral and disgust face with the probe appearing at the location of the neutral face. Please explain what happens in the remaining 32 trials.
2) Are the same faces used in every session, or do they receive new faces every session?

Results section

-Second sentence; please describe in more detail the conducted statistical analysis (a 2 (Group) x 8 (Time) Repeated Measures ANOVA?)
-Change in Attention bias paragraph; please explain how the attentional bias score was calculated
-Change in Attention bias paragraph; a correlation was calculated between the post-training bias score and change in LSAS-SR scores, however it seems that a correlation between change in attention bias and change in LSAS-SR scores would be more informative and more consistent with your hypothesis.

Discretionary Revisions

-Procedure and Design: I wondered how written informed consent was obtained, as data was collected via Internet.
- Procedure and Design: please specify which questionnaires were obtained at 4 months follow-up.
- Year of publication is missing in the Boettcher et al. reference in the reference list

**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.