Reviewer's report

Title: Measuring Engagement in Deliberate Self-Harm Behaviours: Psychometric Evaluation of Six Scales

Version: 2 Date: 24 October 2012

Reviewer: Franz Resch

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Major compulsory Revisions

1) As far as I understood the method section, the scores of the scales are formed by summing up the number of different self-mutilation methods used during lifetime "... responses were scored 0 (behaviour never engaged in during lifetime) and 1 (behaviour engaged in at least once during lifetime)." The clinical severity is usually based on the number of instances of self-mutilating behaviors in a certain time period (e.g. 10 times during one day vs. once a week). What does the score formed by the authors mean from a clinical point of view? A person with one time of cutting and one time of scratching has a higher score than a person with 100 times of cutting.

2) This unusual scoring should be better explained in the method section and in the discussion

Discretionary Revisions

3) Please specify the statistic used for calculating the model fit

4) The usage of Bonferroni correction is quite conservative, making model violations less visible. This should be mentioned.

5) To detect missfitting items a cut off of +/- 2.5 were used, corresponding to a p-value of 0.012. This is in discrepancy to the .05 used for other tests. Please explain.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

No competing interests