Reviewer's report

Title: Uptake and adherence of a self-directed internet-based mental health intervention with tailored e-mail reminders in senior high schools in Norway

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Reviewer: Heleen Riper

Reviewer's report:

I would like to compliment the authors for the effort they have undertaken to conduct a rct among high school students, which is not an easy task.

I do have however a number of substantial problems with this paper and these are related to both content and methodological questions:

1) the researchers conducted a rct but present here only results of the three experimental conditions due to the central questions of this paper. I guess they have not undertaken a rct with a control condition without any purpose. What happened with these data? Are they published elsewhere (I can't find it in the ref list)?

2) I don't see any underpinning why you should provide an unguided self-help intervention for depression to students who are not depressed. Depression has not been taken as an inclusion criteria (see table 1, means well below 16). Why providing a depression intervention to students who are not depressed?

3) The method applied for dealing with missing values is not clear. Next, the researchers speak about power but I do not see a power calculation at all. Given the very high dropout and the very low number of students who have completed the program I think you can't make any conclusion on the basis of the data presented.

4) the aims of the study are not clear and neither is the approach they have chosen to answer their research questions

5) I miss clear reference to the discussion whether you should provide depression treatment at all schools, evidence so far is hinting in the direction that you should not do so (for screening it is ok)

5) for sure the authors will have obtained very interesting data

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests