Author's response to reviews

Title: Day Hospital Mentalization-Based Treatment (MBT-DH) versus treatment-as-usual in the treatment of severe borderline personality disorder: Protocol of a randomized controlled trial.

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Author's response to reviews: see over
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Subject: Manuscript submission – revised version

Dear Dr. Rye Chua,

Hereby, I have the pleasure to send to you, on behalf of my co-authors, the revised version of the manuscript of “Day Hospital Mentalization-Based Treatment (MBT-DH) versus treatment-as-usual in the treatment of severe borderline personality disorder: Protocol of a randomized controlled trial”. We added an Acknowledgements section to the protocol and we answered your questions regarding the ethical and funding approval. I confirm that we have forwarded the requested documentation to BMCeriesEditorial@biomedcentral.com. Below, you find the additions to our manuscript.

I am looking forward to hear from you again.

Yours sincerely, also on behalf of my co-authors,

Elisabeth

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Changes made

1. **Acknowledgements:**

We strongly encourage you to include an Acknowledgements section between the Authors’ contributions section and Reference list. Please acknowledge anyone who contributed towards the study by making substantial contributions to conception, design, acquisition of data, or analysis and interpretation of data, or who was involved in drafting the manuscript or revising it critically for important intellectual content, but who does not meet the criteria for authorship. Please also include their source(s) of funding. Please also acknowledge anyone who contributed materials essential for the study.

Authors should obtain permission to acknowledge from all those mentioned in the Acknowledgements. Please list the source(s) of funding for the study, for each author, and for the manuscript preparation in the acknowledgements section. Authors must describe the role of the funding body, if any, in study design; in the collection, analysis, and interpretation of data; in the writing of the manuscript; and in the decision to submit the manuscript for publication.

**Response:** We added the following acknowledgements section to page 22:

This study is in part funded by ZonMW, which is the Netherlands Organization for Health Research and Development (grant no. 171002402). We would like to thank Isabel Alvarez Perez, Carolien Christ and Laura Bakker for their hard work in collecting the data. And of course we are grateful for all the patients that took part in this on-going study.

2. **Translated Ethical and Funding Approval Documentation**

If your documents are not in English, please could you provide translated versions of the relevant parts. These should be endorsed and signed by a contactable person at the institution. Can you please confirm in your cover letter that you have forwarded the requested documentation to BMCSeriesEditorial@biomedcentral.com.

**Response:** We translated the relevant parts of the ethical and funding approval documentation to English and we have forwarded the documents to BMCSeriesEditorial@biomedcentral.com.

3. **Please can you clarify whether you received ethical approval from each site where your study took place, or whether the ethical approval you received covered all sites of data collection.**

**Response:** The ethical approval we received covered all sites of data collection. We added this to the manuscript on page 7:

A certified Medical Ethics Review Committee in The Netherlands has approved this study, registered under NL38571.078.12. This ethical approval covered all sites of data collection.