Reviewer’s report

Title: The relationships between perfectionism, pathological worry and generalised anxiety disorder

Version: 2 Date: 28 October 2013

Reviewer: Vijaya Manicavasagar

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Minor Essential revisions:

1. The questions posed by the authors needs to be defined more clearly. There are references in the text to ‘clinical perfectionism’ and ‘perfectionism’ but there does not seem to be clarity on which of these forms part of the main research question. Similarly, the concept of ‘pathological worry’ needs to be explained further.

2. The methods are appropriate but the methodology is not well-described. For example, the authors need to state earlier on how the clinical sample was recruited and the study inclusion criteria. Furthermore, the MINI was used to assign diagnoses of GAD but depression was assessed on the Beck Depression Inventory (BDI). Although a cut-off score on the Beck is often used assess for clinical levels of depression, it is not the same as assigning a diagnosis using DSM or ICD criteria. The cut-off score for assigning patients to the depression category on the BDI has not been given in the manuscript.

3. Some of the correlations between the variables reported in Table 5 seem high (i.e. over 0.5) to be used in the regression analyses. This could be a problem with multicolinearity.

4. Are alpha levels reported in the Measures sections referring to Cronbach’s alpha levels? If so, this should probably be stated.

5. The results of this study are based on self-report questionnaire scores from subscales which may or may not have any relevance to clinical practice and functional impairment. If the impact of perfectionism and pathological worry is being investigated in GAD, it would probably be more relevant if there was some comment about how these questionnaire results may impact on clinical practice.

6. Furthermore the sample size seems small – this is a limitation that needs to be acknowledged.

7. The writing style could be improved in some areas. For example, the results section reporting on the regression analyses is particularly repetitive.

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

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being
published

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

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