Reviewer's report

Title: Narrative Exposure Therapy as a treatment for child and adolescent war survivors with posttraumatic stress disorder: A case report and an uncontrolled clinical trial in an African refugee settlement

Version: 1 Date: 24 September 2004

Reviewer: Panos Vostais

Reviewer's report:

General

An interesting and topical paper on the narrative exposure therapy for children exposed to political conflict and presenting with PTSD. There is limited research on the effectiveness of interventions for this group of children. The paper is well structured and written. The literature review, description of the treatment and clinical case material are clearly presented. The main comment is on the reference to an 'uncontrolled trial', with only six cases. Also, the reference to efficacy - the present design and findings cannot support such evidence, although the preliminary findings are promising.

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Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

The paper would benefit from focusing on the description of the intervention and presentation of pilot pre- and post-intervention data, without reference to them as a trial.

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Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

It would be useful if the authors elaborated the discussion on the following points:
a) Their experience from applying the intervention with this particular group of children.
b) The differences and similarities in applying in other child populations.
c) The potential specificity of this intervention to those reported in the literature (even if this is beyond the remit of the research design).

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No

Declaration of competing interests: