Author's response to reviews

Title: Exploratory Analysis of Obsessive-Compulsive Dimensions in Children and Adolescents: A Prospective Follow-up Study

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Author's response to reviews: see over
December 4, 2005

Dear Dr. Hodgkinson,

Thank you for your e-mail of November 22, 2005 and the new comments of the referees concerning our manuscript *Exploratory Analysis of Obsessive-Compulsive Symptom Dimensions in Children and Adolescents: A Prospective Follow-up Study*, by Delorme et al. (MS: 1933898887204241).

We have taken into account your comments and those of referee 3 to further improve our manuscript. You will find the modifications in red in the revised text as well as a detailed answer to the referees' comments in the following pages. We hope that after the modifications we have made to our manuscript, you will now find it acceptable for publication in *BMC Psychiatry*.

Yours sincerely,

Richard Delorme, M.D.
**Editor's comments**

*Ethics - “The local Research Ethics Board reviewed and approved the study”. Please give the name of the review board, and a reference number if one is available.*

The requested information was added in the Methods section (page 6, 2nd paragraph)

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**Referee 3**

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

1. The authors have misinterpreted my suggestion regarding concerns regarding non-normality of their observed symptom scores. Rather than adding a note that the methods require the assumption of normality (in Table 2), they should provide summary statistics in Table 1 (mean, median, standard deviation, IQR) to allow the reader to assess the skewed nature of these scores. The footnote at the bottom of Table 2 can remain.

As requested by the reviewer, we provide further statistical information in Table 1 (page 23).

2. The figure using parallel boxplots is a vast improvement over the original figure (which displays only 16 pieces of information (4 means and 4 SE at each of two time points). The heavy tails in the distribution are clearly seen in the boxplot (but not in the author’s original figure). Reporting the original figure would be misleading.

The figure using parallel boxplots was added in the revised manuscript (page 26).

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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)**

1. Hoarding is misspelled in the parallel boxplot figure.
   
   Correction made (page 26).