Reviewer's report

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

Version: 2 Date: 13 November 2005

Reviewer: Nicholas Horton

Reviewer's report:

General

The authors have addressed the majority of the concerns raised in the prior review. They now more clearly state the limitations of their findings, and have completed secondary analyses to help assess the robustness of their results to assumptions.

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, std deviation, IQR) to allow the reader to assess the skewed nature of these scores. The footnote at the bottom of Table 2 can remain.

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.

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

Hoarding is misspelled in the parallel boxplot figure.

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

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:
I declare that I have no complete interests.