Reviewer's report

**Title:** Dresden PTSD treatment study: Randomized controlled trial of motor vehicle accident survivors (ISRCTN66456536)

**Version:** 3  **Date:** 20 June 2006

**Reviewer:** Anke Ehlers

**Reviewer's report:**

**General**
The authors have been very responsive to the reviewers' comments. The manuscript is now in good shape.

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

**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. In the tables, it would be useful to give the N's for the observations. For example, in Table 2, there is a note that follow-ups were only available for 17 patients. For post-treatment, are completer or intent-to-treat scores reported? Similar considerations apply to Table 4. In Table 2, superscripts like the ones in Table 4 would be useful to make the data comparable. I also think that Tables 2 and 4 could be combined as they have the same format.

2. p. 13, para 2, line 3: The text states that for some variables there was further improvement. According to the superscripts, I cannot spot any significant differences between post or follow up scores. Thus, either the text or superscripts are wrong, I assume it is the former.

3. p. 13, para 2, line 6: You will need to refer back to table 3 so that the reader understands that recovery means no diagnosis of PTSD. This sentence reads as if it still refers to Table 2.

3. There are a few odd sentences that need clarification/ revision:

- p. 9, para 3, lines 3 to 6: "stick with the stress" - stay with the memory?
  "disappeared stress" - reduced distress?

- p. 14, para 4, lines 2/3: "patients with German mother tongue" - german speakers?

- p. 15, para 2, line 5: "symptom load" - high distress caused by the symptoms?

**Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)**

**What next?:** Accept after minor essential revisions

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

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

**Statistical review:** No
Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests