Author's response to reviews

Title: Web-based tools can be used reliably to detect patients with major depressive disorder and subsyndromal depressive symptoms

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear the Editor:

Thank you for considering the acceptance of our manuscript for publication in BMC Psychiatry. We have revised our manuscript and made a point-by-point response to the reviewers’ comments.

We would be most grateful if this paper could be published in the *BMC Psychiatry* soon.

Sincerely yours,

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**Response to reviewer**

**Response to question 1:**

The definition of MinD and SSD has been described in the Discussion. In order to make readers clear about the definition of MinD in the beginning of the manuscript, the definition was moved from the 1st paragraph of the Discussion to the 1st paragraph of the Methods:

“MDD was defined in the DSM-IV criteria [26]. MinD was defined in accordance with the DSM-IV research criteria [26], that is, an episode with depressed mood or decreased interest, fulfilling at least two (but fewer than five) A criteria for a major depressive disorder. SSD was used to evaluate subthreshold depression, which was defined as having two or more symptoms of depression criteria excluding the A criteria [27-29].”

**Response to question 2:**

The kappa values in Table 2 were recalculated as weighted kappa as the reviewer’s suggestion. A sentence was added to the last paragraph of Methods “Weighted kappa was analyzed with the SAS System 9.0 for Windows”. In addition to the overall
reliability for all depressive diagnosis, we are also interested in the reliability of each
diagnosis. Therefore, the kappa value for each diagnosis was removed from Table 2
and described in the results. Because it is not appropriate in a strict statistics,
limitation was added in the last sentence of limitation paragraph of Discussion.

The value of kappa was revised as the value of weighted kappa in the abstract and the
results. In the 1st paragraph in Data analysis of the Method, “The test-retest reliability
was analyzed by computing kappa (κ) statistics” was revised as “The system’s
test-retest reliability was analyzed by computing weighted kappa (κ) statistics”.
Because weighted kappa of overall test-retest reliability within 2 weeks increased to
0.801, the interpretation was changed from “good” to “excellent” in the Discussion and
Abstract. Due to the removal of degree of agreement from Table 2, the discussion of degree of
agreement in the 1st paragraph of Discussion was also removed.