Author's response to reviews

Title: Mood color choice helps to predict response to hypnotherapy in patients with irritable bowel syndrome

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Version: 2 Date: 6 September 2010

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Dear Sir/Madam,

We were very pleased to receive your email accepting this paper.

Dr Nomura asks whether if it is possible to see if there are any differences in mood colour choice between patients classified by the Rome II or Rome III criteria. Unfortunately, this piece of work was designed before the Rome III criteria emerged and therefore we are not in a position to answer this question. With regard to the question about whether there were any gender differences, this was actually addressed in the original submitted paper on page 15, paragraph 1.

Dr Emami has suggested that we redraw Tables 1 & 2 placing responders and non-responders vertically and we have now done that for both tables. We are not convinced that this is a change for the better as the original Tables 1 & 2 were in exactly the same layout as all the other tables. Furthermore, the statistics have had to be added as a footnote rather than being an integral part of the table. Could we please leave the decision of whether to keep the old format (originally submitted) of tables or the new format (current submission) up to you?

He also comments that there are a rather large number of tables and would it be possible to combine any of them. We originally had even more tables and combined them so far as was possible and feel to combine the data sets in the current tables even further would lead to rather confusing tables with very complicated legends. We made a decision to have more tables because the BMC format allows this sort of approach and felt that this would also have the advantage of saving the need for lengthy explanations in the text. However if, from an editorial point of view, you feel that you would like us to try to reduce the number of tables we would be happy to try and do this.

Yours faithfully,
Peter J. Whorwell