Author’s response to reviews

Title: Interaction between stress and the BDNF Val66Met polymorphism in depression: a systematic review and meta-analysis

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1. Limitation of combining p-values

We acknowledge the limitation of the statistical approach used in the current study and have included a discussion of this on page 15.

‘Finally, the statistical approach used to conduct the current meta-analysis relied on combining the p-values of existing studies, which were weighted by sample size. This approach was adopted to maximise the number of studies that could be included, with the aim of reducing biases associated with selecting a homogeneous set of studies and to better reflect the current evidence in this field. The meta-analytic method of combining p-values could be improved upon by using traditional approaches that focus on combining effect sizes, which benefit from providing the magnitude of an effect.’