Author's response to reviews

Title: Mental health and resiliency following 44 months of terrorism: A survey of an Israeli national representative sample

Authors:

Avi Bleich (ableich@lev-hasharon.co.il)
Marc Gelkopf (renak@lev-hasharon.co.il)
Yuval Melamed (ymelamed@post.tau.ac.il)
Zahava Solomon (solomon@post.tau.ac.il)

Version: 2 Date: 21 June 2006

Author's response to reviews: see over
Matt Hodgkinson-Barrett BA Hons (Oxon), MSc (Cantab)
Senior Editor
BMC-series Journals
BioMed Central
Middlesex House
34-42 Cleveland Street
London W1T 4LB

Tel: +44 (0)20 7631 9121
Fax: +44 (0)20 7636 4296 / +44 (0)20 7631 9923
email: editorial@biomedcentral.com
Web: www.biomedcentral.com

Dear Mr. Hodgkinson-Barret,

Re: S: 1264760015100220
Mental health and resiliency following 44 months of terrorism: A survey of an Israeli national representative sample
Avi Bleich, Marc Gelkopf and Zahava Solomon

Thank you for your communication dated June 4, 2006 with the reviewers helpful comments. We revised our manuscript as follows:

Response to Reviewer Arieh Shalev:

There is a detailed description of the instruments used in the "Instrument" subsection of the "Methods" section, beginning on page 7 and extending through page 11.

Regarding the limitation of conclusions based on the study's instrument, we added the following to the "Limitations" section: When evaluating our conclusions, it should be noted that though our questionnaires included validated widely used questionnaires, we added study specific questions, thus not all items in our evaluation instruments had been previously validated.

Response to Reviewer Simon Wesseley

1. The participation rate is now clarified in the methods section (page 6).
2. The study was indeed performed on one day, and this is now clarified in the "data collection" subsection on page 7.
3. We decided not to change the presentation of the statistical results in order to be consistent with our previous paper. Furthermore we did perform additional analyses but they did not contribute to our understanding of risk factors.
4. We now refer to Durkheim's theory (page 17, reference 26).
Response to Reviewer Sandro Galea's

1. We clarified the participation rates in the abstract.
2. We added the exposure measure in the Methods section and changed the wording to clarify the results relating to exposure and traumatic stress symptoms in the abstract.
3. We found it important to keep the final sentence in the abstract and instead as suggested by the reviewer included reference to our previous work in the background and method sections of the abstract.
4. We clarified that the 30 participants in the pilot study were not included in the study sample (top of page 9).
5. We added a sentence relating to the analysis of missing values in the statistical analysis (as we did in our previous study), (end of page 11).
6. We added data to two of the tables which include the results of our previous study (PTSD symptomatology table and other symptoms table).
7. As suggested we added 3 subtitles in the Discussion Section.
8. We added an introductory paragraph to the Discussion section, to clarify that "some results were better, worse and remained the same…” (bottom of page 16).
9. The limitation section was rewritten.
10. Additional references are now included, as suggested.
11. Terror management theory is now mentioned (page 19).
12. The Palestinian population and the Al Aksa Intifada is now mentioned (Reference 33 page 20).

We hope the revised paper is now suitable for publication in BMC Psychiatry.

Sincerely,

Marc Gelkopf, Ph.D.