Reviewer’s report

Title: Problematic Internet Usage in US College Students

Version: 1 Date: 9 February 2011

Reviewer: eitan D schwarz

Reviewer’s report:

I. * Discretionary Revisions (which are recommendations for improvement but which the author can choose to ignore) --

1. suggest use 'preventive' throughout instead of 'preventative'

II. * Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

2. fix spelling error p9 preventative pracice

3. Usage/conceptual problems with wordings:
P3 'fabric of this generation' try 'fabric of the lives of this generation'
P8 'validity to the phenomenon of Internet addiction as depression' – suggest …addiction as associated with depression'

4. Can discuss at end more implications for guidance of parents, etc. Practicing Pediatricians are not doing much at all about their patients' problems with technology

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

5. SAMPLE vs STUDY GROUP - strictly speaking, this is not a random sample and thus has severely limited generalizability = the students actually studied are a v. small group out of the large number of possibles. They self-selected by how they chose to set PRIVACY settings on Facebook (1933/3038 possibles eliminated, and 224/3038 used). More discussion is needed here. Review proper use of the word 'sample' throughout.

4. The general prevalence of 'depression' is about 15% in the general college undergraduate population. How does that interact with the findings? Need major discussion here. Also, focus on depression is popular, but what about other disorders (e.g. anxiety, PTSD, etc.) that may have comorbidity with depression. This needs mention...

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published
**Statistical review:** Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests