Author's response to reviews

Title: A Cognitive-Behavioral Intervention for Emotion Regulation in Adults with High-functioning Autism Spectrum Disorders: study protocol for a randomized controlled trial

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Version: 2 Date: 17 June 2013

Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Trials Editorial staff:

Thank you for your comments about the submitted manuscript. The changes made to the paper are in accordance with your comments.

1. Handling editor's comments:

"Where is the justification for the sample size of 60?"

We are sorry for not being clearer. We revised the sentences as below.

In the original manuscript, P11, l.2;

Based on Sofronoff et al.’s studies [12,13], we intended to have 25 individuals in each of the intervention groups, and 30 individuals (per group) will be recruited to account for possible dropouts.

In the revised manuscript, P11, l.2-7;

In our study, the Cognitive Affective Training Kit (The Cat-kit) [16], which was used in Sofronoff et al.’s studies, will be used, along with the procedure of those studies. Sofronoff and colleagues had 23-25 participants in each of their intervention groups. Therefore we decided to use 25 participants each for the intervention and control groups, recruiting 30 individuals per group to account for potential dropouts.

2. Editorial requests:

Please ensure the title conforms to journal style for study protocol articles. The title should follow the format ?__________: study protocol for a randomized controlled trial.?
We revised the title as below;

A Cognitive-Behavioral Intervention for Emotion Regulation in Adults with High-functioning Autism Spectrum Disorders: study protocol for a randomized controlled trial

3. Reviewer: Dr. Honda’s comment

As indicated in Table 2, the subjects are assessed with 8 diagnostic measures in advance, M.I.N.I. for once at pre-intervention, and 10 measures for three times, i.e., at pre & post intervention and at follow-up. Possible psychological effects on the subjects and possible bias of data by executing so many psychological tests in a raw on people with ASD should be discussed. Time needed for each test and schedule of the test battery as a whole should be clearly described. Possible psychological effects on the subjects and possible bias of data by executing so many psychological tests in a raw on people with ASD should be discussed.

Thank you for your comments about the submitted manuscript. We added time needed for each test in revised manuscript (p. 13-15) and revised the Table 2. As the reviewers suggested, we use many psychological measures. So, we sent the questionnaires except the ASD questionnaire via mail to the participants’ home 7-10 days before the assessment with careful consideration of the participants’ burden. On the pre-, post-, and follow-up assessment, it takes about 30 minutes for evaluation for GAF and LSAS interviews and about 15 minutes for performance of theory of Mind task in PC. Therefore, we think the psychological effects on the participants are little. Really all participant who attended this study until now enjoyed these evaluation. We add the sentences as below.

In the revised manuscript, P.15, l.9-13

It takes about 1 hour for the participant to fill out all of the questionnaires; therefore, they will be sent via mail to their home 7-10 days before the assessment date with careful consideration of the participants’ burden. During the pre-, post-, and follow-up assessments, the GAF and LSAS interviews will take about 30 minutes. The theory of mind tasks, MPMR (done on a PC) will take about 15 minutes.

Sincerely,

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