Author’s response to reviews

Title: A Randomised Controlled Trial on the Effectiveness of Grief-Help, a Cognitive Behavioural Treatment for Prolonged Grief in Children

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Author’s response to reviews: see over
Dear editors,

We hereby submit a revised version of “A Randomised Controlled Trial on the Effectiveness of Grief-Help, a Cognitive Behavioural Treatment for Prolonged Grief in Children” for publication in Trials.

We thank you and the reviewer for the comments. These have helped us to improve the paper. Below we will list the changes that we made and will key these to the comments.

**Editorial requests:**

[1] 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 changed the title into: “The effectiveness of Grief-Help, a cognitive behavioural treatment for Prolonged Grief in children: study protocol for a randomized controlled trial”

[2] Please include a trial status section. This should state the status of the trial at the time of manuscript submission. The journal considers study protocol articles for proposed or ongoing trials provided they have not completed patient recruitment at the time of submission.

We added a trial status section at the very end of the manuscript. Its content is: “Ethical approval for this study has been obtained from a medical ethics committee (CCMO no NL30528.041.09). All therapists have been trained at the different participating sites. Patient recruitment is ongoing and will continue until mid-2014.”

**Comments Reviewer**

**Major Compulsory Revisions**

The authors need to update the introduction so that it mentions and describes other existing trials of CBT for childhood grief, particularly studies involving Trauma Focused CBT by Cohen and Mannarino etc. I think the authors need to say how their treatment is similar, an improvement, more cost effective, culturally sensitive etc. The intro as currently written does not adequately capture the existing literature on the treatment of grief and can be improved to contextualize this study.

We have extended the introduction such that it now includes a reference to more treatment studies that have been conducted before. In addition, the work of Cohen and Mannarino is now also cited. This has improved contextualization of the study.

**Minor Revisions**

I would suggest a more recent reference to the validity of the CPSS Reginald D V Nixon, Richard Meiser-Stedman, Tim Dalgleish, William Yule, David M Clark,

This paper is now cited in our description of the CPSS.

We hope that you agree with the changes that we made. We look forward to your reaction.

With kind regards, also on behalf of Drs. Peter Prinzie, Maja Dekovic, Jan van den Bout, Paul A. Boelen,

Mariken Spuij
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