Author's response to reviews

Title: Major depressive disorder in Parkinson's disease: a cross-sectional study from Sri Lanka

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The Editor
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Dear Sir,

We have given below our feedback regarding the comments made by Reviewer 2.

Title: Major depressive disorder in Parkinson's disease: a cross-sectional study from Sri Lanka
Version: 2 Date: 30 August 2014
Reviewer: Jitse P. van Dijk

Reviewer's report:
Review 2
Comment 1
Methods
Measures

How was the Montgomery-Asberg Depression Rating Scale translated into the local language, as it is an interviewer rated scale with help of which you performed a clinical interview. In my opinion such an instrument should be translated. Please go into this.

Authors: We thank the reviewer for going through the manuscript.

MADRS was not translated in to the local language. The reasons are following. Sri Lanka has 2 local languages, Sinhala and Tamil. In addition a minority use English in day to day use. English is an official language. Medical school
education is in English and all doctors use English for clinical documentation and professional communication in Sri Lanka. Because majority of patients do not use English in daily use, all doctors in Sri Lanka interview the patients in one of the local languages and record clinical data in English. Many years of performing this has made this process and automatic one for the clinicians. The investigators are from the same cultural background as the study participants and speak atleast one local language in addition to English. The investigator who performed the clinical interview is trilingual and speaks all three languages. Since the MADRS was scored by the investigator it was decided that translating it to the local languages was unnecessary.

The following was added to the methods.

The MADRS was not translated into the local languages as it was scored by the investigators.

We hope the manuscript is now suitable for publication.

Yours sincerely.

Prof. Varuni de Silva