Author's response to reviews

Title: A randomized controlled trial of mental health interventions for survivors of systematic violence in Kurdistan, Northern Iraq

Authors:

Paul Bolton (pbolton1@jhu.edu)
Judith Bass (jbass1@jhu.edu)
Goran Zangana (gsabir@heartlandalliance.org)
Talar Kamal (talar_kamal@yahoo.com)
Sarah Murray (smmuray9@jhu.edu)
Debra Kaysen (dkaysen@uw.edu)
Carl Lejuez (clejuez@umd.edu)
Kristen Lindgren (kpl9716@uw.edu)
Sherry Pagoto (Sherry.Pagoto@umassmed.edu)
Laura Murray (lmurra15@jhu.edu)
Stephanie Skavenski (sskaven1@jhu.edu)
Nazar Amin (nazar.amin@gmail.com)
Ahmed Ahmed (ahmed.ammin@gmail.com)
Michael Rosenblum (mrosen@jhu.edu)

Version: 5
Date: 26 November 2014

Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear BMC Psychiatry Editors,

My co-authors and I are submitting further revisions as requested to the manuscript titled ‘A randomized controlled trial of mental health interventions for survivors of systematic violence in Kurdistan, Northern Iraq’. Below we have included each request, followed by our description, in italics, of how we have addressed that request.

EDITOR’S COMMENTS:

The authors have addressed the major concerns of the reviewers. There are a small number of adjustments and additions that need to be made however to advance the manuscript to the next stage as detailed below:

Line 104: Needs brief comment about current situation: region now again in conflict with substantial areas under ISIL control.

A sentence acknowledging the current situation has been added as requested.

Line 105, sentence needs restructuring: At the time...

The grammar of this sentence has been corrected.

Line 117: BATD and CPT need full wording with abbreviated terms in brackets as first time mentioned in main text. Note, insufficient to indicate this in Abstract

This has been corrected.

159: Terminology: posttraumatic stress, traumatic grief and anxiety - use same terms in abstract
This has been corrected in the Abstract: ‘trauma’ has been changed to ‘posttraumatic stress’.

Line 184: Needs correction

Corrected: missing words reinserted.

Line 185: Need at least brief account to summarize approach and results for testing criterion validity - not just reference to source material.

A brief account has been inserted, including additional material on how respondents were recruited (in the same section).

Line 222: correct duplicate wording.

Corrected.

Line 396: missing word

Word inserted.

Line 463: missing heading: Discussion

‘AND DISCUSSION’ was removed from the heading ‘RESULTS AND DISCUSSION’ and the heading ‘DISCUSSION’ was inserted at the point indicated.

Thank you for your very helpful suggestions.

Sincerely,

Paul Bolton MB BS MPH MSc
Center for Refugee and Disaster Studies
Department of International Health
Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health.