Reviewer’s report

Title: The situation of former adolescent self-injurers as young adults: A follow-up study

Version: 2 Date: 23 March 2015

Reviewer: Naomi Sadeh

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Major Compulsory Revisions

1. My biggest concern is the very low participation rate in this study (only 10% of invited individuals participated). A greater discussion of the limitations of the findings due to this methodological design flaw needs to be included to help readers understand how the findings may be biased by self-selection into the study.

2. On a similar note, it is important for the authors to describe how individuals who participated in the study differed from those who chose not to participate. At a minimum, differences between the study group and those that declined to participate should be described in terms of the information available in the chart reviews and/or demographic information. This would help contextualize the study findings and would help bring to light differences between these groups that may be biasing the findings.

Minor Essential Revisions

1. Line 52, “has investigated” should be changed to “have investigated”

2. Line 65, “trough-out” should be changed to “throughout”

3. The authors should note that the association between age of NSSI onset and duration of NSSI in years is potentially an artifact of the fact that participants who started at a younger age have had more of an opportunity to engage in NSSI. This makes the finding less interesting than the authors claim (unless they somehow equate participants on the number of years they have had to engage in NSSI).

Discretionary Revisions

1. It would be helpful for the authors to include more specific information when reviewing the literature in the introduction about the quality of the research they are reviewing. In particular, how big were the longitudinal studies they reviewed on NSSI?

2. It is not clear why the authors did not measure Axis II Disorders, like Borderline Personality Disorder, given the well-established connection they have to NSSI. Please provide a rationale for not measuring Axis II Disorders.
Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests.