Author’s response to reviews

Title: Validation of the Bahasa Malay Version of the Montgomery-Asberg Depression Rating Scale (MADRS-BM)

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Editor:

1/ We ask that you also include a statement in the methods section of your revised manuscript that a copy of the permissions obtained was made available to the editor of the journal.

We have added this statement “A copy of that permission was made available to the editor of this journal.” In the methods section, page 5, line 2.

Reviewer #1:

1/ Have the authors checked if the number of individuals (150) has been sufficient for a reliable validation? Please, answer this question in the methodology or discussion part.

We have added this statement: “We estimated the sample size to be 45 depressed subjects and 90 non-depressed subjects (ratio of 1 to 2), based on the calculation of 5 cases per item in the MADRS-BM (total of 9 items)[15]., hence, total of 150 subjects is enough for this validation study.” In the methods section, page 6, line 9.

2/ Table 2 and Table 4 - please, translate into English!

We have translated Table 2 and Table 4 into English.

3/ Table 3 - Spearman’s correlation - instead of Pearson’s correlation - would be more suitable for ordinal data (however, probably without impact on the results).

We have reanalysed the data by using Spearman’s correlation (Table 3). No impact was found on the results.

Reviewer 2:

1/ The authors should have to explain how did they diagnosed depression and who did the diagnoses.
All the depressed patients were diagnosed by the first author who is the trained psychiatrist.

We have added this statement: “The selection criteria of the depressed subjects included those with major depressive disorder (diagnosis confirmed by the first author (AY) who is a trained clinical psychiatrist) based on the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, revised fourth edition (DSM-IV-TR)” in the methods section, page 6, line 2.