Reviewer’s report

Title: Psycho-education for Substance Use and Antisocial Personality Disorder: A randomized trial

Version: 0 Date: 13 Sep 2015

Reviewer: Mette Felbert Kreis

Reviewer’s report:

This is an excellent manuscript of high quality both in content and writing style. The methodology of the study was robust and analyses appropriate. The study provides a very valuable contribution to the sparse literature on the treatment of ASPD and comorbid SUD using RCTs. I only have a few comments for the authors to consider:

- Manuscript lacks page numbers

- Under 'Background' and the assessment of ASPD, I think it would be more accurate to say that the DSM-IV criteria (which isn't a measure) for ASPD and the PCL-R measure of psychopathy capture different aspects/features of the same construct (conceptualised differently), with the criteria/measure having different degrees of specificity rather than the PCL-R measuring higher levels of severity of the disorder. See e.g. Hart & Cook (2012) in Neuropsychiatry, 2(6).

- Under 'Treatment for ASPD' section and RCTs, see also Bernstein et al. (2012) in International Journal of Forensic Mental Health, 11(4), although that study was with forensic inpatients rather than outpatients.

- Under 'Discussion', the authors note the limitation of a very low attendance rate for ILC treatment (only 23% attended all 6 sessions with a mean of only 2.8). Although this correctly reflects the norm within outpatient substance abuse treatment services, it still limits the conclusions that can be drawn about the efficacy of this particular treatment. Could it be possible that the positive results that were found for the ILC group compared to the TAU group may not be specific to the ILC treatment but could instead be a function of providing a psychological intervention above and beyond TAU generally?

- There's a small typo in 'Conclusion' section. 'More research is needed in how best to...' should be 'on how best to...'

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.
Yes

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

I am able to assess the statistics

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