Reviewer’s report

Title: Success/failure condition influences attribution of control, negative affect, and shame among patients with Depression in Singapore

Version: 1  Date: 30 Mar 2017

Reviewer: Michael Moore

Reviewer's report:

The authors of the manuscript have undertaken significant efforts and have clearly made an attempt to be responsive to reviewer comments. Specifically, the addition of effect size statistics and information about how diagnoses were made, as well as other methodological information, made the paper better, in my opinion. The authors are to be commended for their efforts.

I can identify a few more problems which would need to be addressed, in my opinion. First, I would respectfully disagree with the reviewers in their response to point #1. The authors state that "in this study, we were specifically interested in differences in how participants with depression and health controls appraised and responded to success and failure conditions." To determine a response to a stimulus, the researchers would need to know: (1) where the participant started and (2) where they ended up after the introduction of the stimulus. Therefore, to evaluate response involves, by necessity, evaluating change from pre- to post-stimulus. Even using pre-task variables as a covariate would be a superior strategy as it would adjust post-task differences for these pre-task effects. The authors looked for pre-task differences, and didn't find them, so I doubt this change in analytic strategy would alter the results significantly. In any case, I still feel that the current analytic strategy does not match the hypothesis that the authors wish to test, which I would argue does suggest change over time (from pre- to post-task).

Second, while it is helpful that the authors have added effect size statistics, they do not appear to have interpreted them or discussed them anywhere in the paper (unless I am missing something). Third, I thank the authors for making the composition of the groups more clear. However, my critique still stands, that it's impossible to say if differences are due to depression, being a patient, or some third variable. The authors might consider mentioning this as a Limitation.
Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

No

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

No

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?
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I am able to assess the statistics

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