Reviewer’s report

Title: Separating obsessive-compulsive disorder from the self. A qualitative study of family member perceptions

Version: 0 Date: 08 May 2017

Reviewer: Jessica Paterson

Reviewer's report:

This is a novel and interesting study. It is well-written and provides important insights into perceptions of OCD by family members of those affected.

Introduction:

The introduction was well-written, presented and argued.

Methods:

- It is mentioned that participants were recruited as 'dyads' - one individual with a diagnosis of OCD, and one family member. Were they interviewed in these dyads? If so, how might this have influenced their responses? If not, what was the role of the individual with OCD (i.e. why were they also recruited?) In the case that participants dropped out, was their dyad partner also required to withdraw?

- Please explain further the meaning of the sentence "The Yale-Brown obsessive compulsive scale [Y-BOCS, 15] checklist was used to improve diversity in symptom subtype when sampling."

- Please give more detail in regards to this statement:

"The interviewer made brief field notes immediately after the interview, paying particular attention to any contextual factors influencing how the interview progressed, e.g. impressions of the openness of the participant. The purpose of these notes was to assist with interpretation of data during the analysis stage."
Was the interviewer trained in making assumptions based on contextual information? What kinds of assistance did this information provide and how did it influence data analysis?

Results and Discussion:

Both well-written and presented. An excellent section addressing limitations and strengths of the study.

Despite being well-written, the paper needs a thorough copy-edit. These are a few errors I picked up in my review:

Page 2, Line 84 - insert 'by' in-between 'experienced' and 'relatives'

Page 5, Line 100-105 - very long sentence

Page 6, Line 120 - insert ''with' in-between 'people' and 'OCD'

Table 1 - repetition of the words 'average of' in the 4th row of the Inclusion Criteria column

Page 9 - Line 187 - the word 'closely' is perhaps misplaced in this sentence? A typo?

Page 13 - Line 284 - add an 's' to the end of 'suggest'

Page 14, Line 293 - consistent with other formatting, change the period at the end of this sentence to a colon.

Page 19, Line 407 – delete the 's from 'mother'

Page 24, Line 553 - Perhaps change 'determine the' to 'determine whether'
**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.

**Unable to assess**

**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.

**Not relevant to this manuscript**

**Quality of written English**
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

**Needs some language corrections before being published**

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