Reviewer’s report

Title: EXPERIENCES OF AN INTERNET-BASED SUPPORT AND COACHING MODEL FOR ADOLESCENTS AND YOUNG ADULTS WITH ADHD AND AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDERS - A QUALITATIVE STUDY

Version: 1 Date: 27 Jul 2017

Reviewer: Kevin Antshel

Reviewer’s report:

Thank you for the opportunity to review this manuscript. In this study, the authors investigated how 16 adolescents and young adults with ADHD, ASD or both, experienced taking part in an 8-week internet-based support and coaching model. Using a qualitative design, the authors discovered 3 main themes deciding to participate, taking part in the coaching process and the significance of format.

Below, please find my comments, which I hope will help the authors create a manuscript that can have a broad and sustained impact upon the field.

1. Most fundamentally, I have concerns about the worth or relevance of this study. I do not believe that this manuscript has contributed usefully to our knowledge base of ASD or ADHD interventions for adolescents or young adults.

2. The theoretical contributions to the intervention need to be better described.

3. It is not clear to me how these data (other than being qualitative) go beyond what the authors reported in their 2012 quantitative study. Most of the themes from this study were readily apparent in the 2012 pilot study.

4. The fact that these qualitative interviews occurred up to 2 years after receiving the intervention is a significant concern. I recommend dropping those that were interviewed any more than 3 months after the intervention. Expecting adolescents with attention problems to recall something from 2 years ago with great clarity (as is needed in a qualitative design) is not scientifically rigorous.

5. How did the 16 that agreed to participate in the qualitative interview compare to the 14 that elected not to? Is there a selection bias to this sample? Was this a convenience sample?

6. It appears that this sample of late adolescents and early adults recently underwent a neuropsychiatric evaluation. If this was the evaluation that initially made the diagnosis of ASD or ADHD, this raises considerable questions about the external validity of these data and representativeness of these participants to the broader ASD and ADHD populations.
7. More information is needed about the participants and the clinical contexts. What were the participants' histories of previous psychosocial interventions? What was the severity of the ASD and ADHD?

8. It is not presently possible to follow the iteration between data and the explanations for the data using theory.

**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.

No

**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

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

Acceptable

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