Author’s response to reviews

Title: Prospective, randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled phase IIa clinical trial on the effects of an estrogen-progestin combination as add-on to inpatient psychotherapy in adult female patients suffering from anorexia nervosa

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Author’s response to reviews:

Dear Editor(s),

please find attached our manuscript with the title „Prospective, randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled phase IIa clinical trial on the effects of an estrogen-progestin combination as add-on to inpatient psychotherapy in adult female patients suffering from anorexia nervosa“ that we would like to re-submit to “BMC Psychiatry”.

We have revised our manuscript according to the suggestions of the reviewers and editors.

We thank you for the opportunity to publish our work in your journal.

Sincerely,

G. Paslakis, MD

Jennifer Jordan

The authors have made thoughtful and thorough responses to the reviewer comments. The amendments to the statistics in relation to power calculation and justification for handing of
missing data is well done. I agree with the authors' rationale for using non-parametric tests as that has also been my experience that eating disorder symptom variables are frequently skewed at baseline but particularly so post-treatment with symptom improvement.

Are the authors aware that specialist supportive clinical management (SSCM) has recently been included with CBT-ED and MANTRA as the three recommended treatments for adult AN in the 2017 NICE guidelines? IPT is not included in that list. The Lindardon et al review, while of relevance, would have missed that because of their focus on behaviour therapies. The authors might consider whether or not they wish to amend their introduction to reflect this new NICE guidance however I will leave that to the authors to decide. All issues raised have been addressed. We certainly need more biological treatments for anorexia nervosa and I wish the researchers well with their study.

Author response:

We have now added the reference to the NICE guidelines on anorexia nervosa (please see “background”).

Thank you very much for encouraging us! We very much appreciate it.