Reviewer’s report

Title: A randomized controlled trial of cognitive remediation for a national cohort of forensic patients with schizophrenia or schizoaffective disorder.

Version: 0 Date: 29 Aug 2018

Reviewer: Farideh Khodabandeh

Reviewer's report:

In general, The manuscript describes a thorough and well-executed study, and the field methods are suited to addressing the questions, although the use of controls is not considered which allow clinicians to capture the value of specific intervention benefits.

Background

In this study, the authors address Cognitive Remediation Training (CRT) for forensic patients with schizophrenia or schizoaffective disorder by conducting a blind randomized controlled trial; whereas they have not been narrated about schizoaffective disorder and lifted unjustified

Methods

According to DSM-IV, schizophrenia or schizoaffective disorders are Classified as Axis I psychiatric disorders (SCID-I), which perhaps be preferable to mention.

With respect to Criteria of allocated participants, some points have not been clear enough as:

- Duration of mental illness
- Type, frequency and seriousness of the litigation and time elapsed since that
- There is an argument for clarity of care and treatment approach provided by Ireland's National Forensic Mental Health Service (NFMHS), Inpatient or outpatient?
- No attention given to participant's demographic information that may be key indicators for trial results.

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.

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?
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:

Acceptable

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