Reviewer’s report

Title: Subjective Experiences of Neurocognitive Functioning in Young People with Major Depression

Version: 1 Date: 22 May 2019

Reviewer: Reviewer 2

Reviewer's report:

PEER REVIEWER ASSESSMENTS:

OBJECTIVE - Full research articles: is there a clear objective that addresses a testable research question(s) (brief or other article types: is there a clear objective)?
Yes - there is a clear objective

DESIGN - Is the current approach (including controls and analysis protocols) appropriate for the objective?
Yes - the approach is appropriate

EXECUTION - Are the experiments and analyses performed with technical rigor to allow confidence in the results?
Yes - experiments and analyses were performed appropriately

STATISTICS - Is the use of statistics in the manuscript appropriate?
N/A - there are no statistics in this study

INTERPRETATION - Is the current interpretation/discussion of the results reasonable and not overstated?
Yes - the author's interpretation is reasonable

OVERALL MANUSCRIPT POTENTIAL - Is the current version of this work technically sound? If not, can revisions be made to make the work technically sound?
Yes - current version is technically sound

PEER REVIEWER COMMENTS:

GENERAL COMMENTS: This is a straightforward qualitative study of young people's experiences of depression and associated neurocognitive impairment. As a qualitative study, the data presented as novel, and they accord with earlier quantitative data. The paper is well written with a coherent and clear Results section. The study has limitations, some of which might have been addressed in the design, but they are clearly described and do not detract from the overall quality of the paper. The sample size (n=11) is if anything on the large size for a study of this kind, and was sufficient (we take the authors’ word for this) to lead to data saturation. One issue
that always bothers me with this kind of study is not knowing the extent to which the experiences described co-exist within participants or generalize across participants. The authors might like to consider whether they could usefully add to the paper to include data of this kind. (But as I have indicated, this information is usually missing, so its absence is unlikely to create a barrier to publication.

ADDITIONAL REQUESTS/SUGGESTIONS:
Very minor suggestions:
- Define all abbreviations at first mention.
- The end of para 2 (It remains unclear …) suggests that this is what this paper will address. As it isn't really, consider inserting "Notwithstanding," as the first word of para 3.
- If the intention is to include the interview as supplementary online material, need to say this in the text.

Note: This reviewer report can be downloaded - see attached pdf file.

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.

Yes

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

Declaration of competing interests
Please complete a declaration of competing interests, considering the following questions:
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5. Do you have any other financial competing interests?

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