Reviewer's report

Title: Post Traumatic Stress Symptom Variation Associated with Sleep Characteristics

Version: 1 Date: 09 Jan 2020

Reviewer: Laura Straus

Reviewer's report:

This study used Ecological Momentary Assessment (EMA) methodology to examine the impact of the prior nights' sleep on Posttraumatic Stress symptoms the next day. Previously, this reviewer was concerned that PTSD was assessed only by self-report via the PCL-5 in this sample, without additional verification that their participants had experienced qualifying Criterion A traumatic events. Additionally, this reviewer wondered about the prevalence of other sleep disorders in this sample. Two points of clarification remain:

1) In their response to reviewers, the authors stated that they "extensively assessed for trauma and all participants had a qualifying traumatic event." Please clarify in the manuscript how this was done. In the "Assessment of PTSD" section, the authors have added a parenthetical indicating that all participants had a qualifying traumatic event. How was this assessed? Was it via the PCL, or otherwise?

2) I appreciate that it was not possible to rule out sleep apnea in this sample. However, this remains a concern, especially given the high rate of sleep disordered breathing among patients with PTSD (see Colvonen et al., 2015). Please acknowledge this as a limitation of the current study.

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?
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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.

I am able to assess the statistics

Quality of written English
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Acceptable

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