Reviewer’s report

Title: The Impact of Pop-up Warning Messages of Losses on Expenditure in a Simulated Game of Roulette: A Pilot Study

Version: 1 Date: 19 May 2019

Reviewer: Reviewer 2

Reviewer's report:

"PEER REVIEWER ASSESSMENTS:

OBJECTIVE - Full research articles: is there a clear objective that addresses one or several testable research questions? (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 sufficient 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?

Yes - appropriate statistical analyses have been used in the study

INTERPRETATION - Is the current interpretation/discussion of the results reasonable and not overstated?

Yes - the author's interpretation is reasonable
OVERALL MANUSCRIPT POTENTIAL - Has the author addressed your concerns sufficiently for you to now recommend the work as a technically sound contribution? If not, can further revisions be made to make the work technically sound?

Yes - current version is technically sound

PEER REVIEWER COMMENTS:

GENERAL COMMENTS: It is possible that non-generic Pop-up' warning messages during online roulette can change gambling behaviors. In this small study current loss or expenditure-specific warnings were more effective than generic messages for reducing expenditure and might be tested in a larger study. Of course, a broader range of gambling types and not in a laboratory would be helpful. I think the authors improved the revised manuscript and satisfactorily answered the queries raised by the reviewers.

ADDITIONAL REQUESTS/SUGGESTIONS:

Clearly, gambling is a major public health issue, but rarely problematic gambling occurs in isolation as a single DSM disorder. What the gambler brings to the particular challenge in terms of genetics, previous addictions, substance use, trauma and so on are all important. Regardless, this study suggests that somewhat simple interventions at the level of the individual can change behavior and risk. This is worth a larger study in a real life environment. "

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.

I am able to assess the statistics

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

Acceptable

Declaration of competing interests
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