Author's response to reviews

Title: Protocol for a randomised controlled trial of three forms of early intervention for youth with borderline personality disorder: the MOBY study

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Author's response to reviews: see over
27th Sep 2015

Prof. Doug Altman
Editor, Trials
c/o BioMed Central
236 Gray’s Inn Road
London WC1X 8HB

Dear Prof. Altman,

Re: MS: 2915689141789087 – Comparing three forms of early intervention for youth with borderline personality disorder (the MOBY study): study protocol for a randomised controlled trial

Thank you for the opportunity to re-submit our manuscript for consideration for publication in Trials. We thank the Reviewer and Editor for their helpful comments. We have responded to these as follows:

Reviewer comments

Reviewer: The Background section could be shortened and the Conclusions and Implications made more specific.
Response: Done

Reviewer: Lack of adequate control in previous trials should be emphasised
Response: We have substantially re-written the introduction to emphasise this and other limitations to the extant literature.

Reviewer: The breadth of the outcome measures used should be linked to the failure to show superiority in general adaptive function
Response: We have substantially re-written the introduction to emphasise this and other limitations to the extant literature.

Reviewer: Hypotheses
Response: We take this as a comment. The reviewer comments that the hypotheses are clear, so we have not made any alterations.

Reviewer: “…randomisation and consenting occur are not clearly specified, and the extent to which this is independent from the research team is unclear. The phrase currently used, “Operated by the Trial Coordinator”, needs to be clarified to say exactly who does what in the consenting and randomisation process.”
Response: Paragraph 2 of the Enrolment and Randomisation section has been re-written and expanded to address this.

Reviewer: More description of Befriending
Response: The sections on Befriending and Treatment Integrity have been expanded to address the specific issues raised.

Reviewer: “…safeguarding in relation to befriending and who takes clinical responsibility.”
Response: The section on Safety has been amended to address this more clearly.

Reviewer: “…statistical analysis ... I would have expected a multilevel model....”

Response: Mixed effects model repeated measures analysis of variances models (MMRM) is a form of multi-level modelling.

Reviewer: anticipated problems

Response: These have been added to the discussion at the bottom of page 19 and into page 20.

Editorial comments

Editor: Title

Response: This has been changed.

Editor: include the date of registration with the trial registration number at the end of the Abstract.

Response: Done

Editor: Statement in Methods explaining that informed consent was obtained from each participant.

Response: Done

Editor: Upload the figures as separate files.

Response: Done

Editor: Include a figure title and legend section after the reference list.

Response: Done

Editor: Additional file names.

Response: Done

In addition to the changes requested, we have updated the number of participants who have been enrolled in the trial.

We note in the instructions to authors that article-processing charges for study protocols may be covered if an author’s institution is a member of BioMed Central. Professor Gleeson’s institution, Australian Catholic University, is a BioMed Central member and Professors Chanen, Jackson, A/Prof Cotton, Drs Davey, Betts, and Thompson’s organisation, The University of Melbourne, is a supporter member. Please find attached a letter from Professor Gleeson explaining Professor Chanen’s affiliation with Australian Catholic University.

We trust that you will find the changes that we have made acceptable. We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Professor Andrew Chanen
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