Reviewer's report

Title: Comparison of the effectiveness of a tailored cognitive behavioural therapy with a supportive listening intervention for depression in those newly diagnosed with multiple sclerosis: the ACTION-MS trial: protocol of an assessor-blinded, active-comparator, randomised controlled trial

Version: 0 Date: 15 Dec 2019

Reviewer: Kirsty Loudon

Reviewer's report:

This is the editorial comment.

This is a well written comprehensive protocol for the randomised treatment of depression in those newly diagnosed with multiple sclerosis with a tailored cognitive behavioural therapy or a supportive listening intervention.

I had a few comments and have used the SPIRIT checklist to structure my questions.

* SPIRIT checklist - It is not acceptable for Trials journal for the authors leave any items blank or with N/A in the SPIRIT checklist. Further information is required. Please either edit the protocol and insert page numbers in the checklist or insert relevant information in the SPIRIT checklist.

Item 2b: All items from the World Health Organization Trial Registration Data Set. Please state: Please refer to Item 2a and registration in Current controlled trials ISRCTN63987586

Item 30: Provisions for post-trial care - you could state "There is no anticipated harm and compensation for trial participation" and it would be helpful to know if there will be any provision for post-trial care.

Item 31b: page 17, 18 you state the author contributions please insert page number into checklist or you could also state "All named authors adhere to the authorship guidelines of Trials. All authors have agreed to publication." Or All authors have contributed to writing the manuscript as detailed p18, no professional writers have been involved.

Item 32: This item is referred to in Item 26a and cannot be N/A. Where can the reader obtain the Informed consent form. If not in appendix then please state where it can be obtained or perhaps state "These are available from the corresponding author on request."

References: There were 10 articles that could not be checked, please check format for websites, include date checked and ensure sufficient information as in guidelines below. Two articles was not validated (https://trialsjournal.biomedcentral.com/submission-guidelines/preparing-your-manuscript/study-protocol/#references).
**Level of interest**
Please indicate how interesting you found the manuscript:

An article of importance in its field

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All images and figures within the manuscript should be genuine i.e. without evidence of manipulation. No specific feature within an image may be enhanced, obscured, moved, removed, or introduced. If you have concerns about the veracity of the figures you should choose the first option below.

**Statistical review**
Is it essential that this manuscript is seen by an expert statistician? If so, please give your reasons in your report.

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