Reviewer's report

Title: Personal wellbeing in posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD): association with PTSD symptoms during and following treatment

Version: 0 Date: 29 Aug 2017

Reviewer: Sara Edmond

Reviewer's report:

This article describes the evaluation of a residential program for posttraumatic stress disorder, examining the program's influence on perceived wellbeing. The introduction is well-written and the rationale for examining perceived wellbeing in addition to psychological symptoms is strong, as is the rationale to measure perceived wellbeing more broadly than prior work that primarily focused on one domain such as spiritual wellbeing or health-related quality of life.

INTRO AND GENERAL COMMENTS

Although the proposed study is interesting, there appears to be no control group. As a result, it will be difficult to make any strong conclusions regarding the impact of the program on personal wellbeing. Authors should be careful in their use of language when drawing conclusions based on this significant limitation.

Given that assessments were conducted pre-treatment, post-treatment, and at 3 and 9 months, it might be useful to state which endpoint is the primary outcome for the study.

METHODS

On page 5, first line of methods study, there appears to be a typo: are there 124 participants or 24?

In the methods, authors should clarify some information regarding study recruitment. It appears from the manuscript text and declarations that all participants provided informed written consent to participate. Can you provide information about number of patients approached, number who agreed/declined, reasons for declining, etc.? Also be sure to provide information about treatment dropout or attrition for all points of data collection.
Over what time frame was data collected? Approximate dates (e.g. month and year ranges) would be helpful.

In the data analysis section, please state whether you plan to provide descriptive and/or univariate statistics in addition to GEE models. Also, it appears that your primary outcome is change in PWI total score, rather than post-treatment, 3 or 9 month PWI score. If that is the case, please provide a justification for using changes in PWI total score rather than controlling for baseline PWI score and looking at changes over time.

In the data analysis section, you give a rationale for including age in the model, but not for any other predictors. While the rationale for including PCL and DASS scores is rather obvious, perhaps an explanation of why gender is included would be warranted.

**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.

No

**Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?**
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

Unable to assess

**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:

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