Author’s response to reviews

Title: Music-instruction Intervention for Treatment of Post-traumatic Stress Disorder: A Randomized Pilot Study

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Author’s response to reviews:

Rainbow Tin Hung Ho, PhD
Editor, BMC Psychology

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Dear Editor,

We are delighted with the conditional acceptance of our manuscript "Music-instruction Intervention for Treatment of Post-traumatic Stress Disorder: A Pilot Study." In response to your additional comments and suggestions, we have further revised the paper, as outlined below. Areas with substantial change in the manuscript are indicated by a yellow highlight, for your convenience.
Technical Comments

1. Figures and tables should be provided as separate files.

Done.

Editor Comments. Comments of previous review have been well-addressed. However, it would be great if the authors could further address the following issues:

1. In line 50, it was mentioned that “Sessions were offered 3 times per week.” Why is this different from the numbers of intervention sessions? The statement in line 50 refers to the number of days in each week (e.g., Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays) in which sessions were offered.

We deleted that statement to avoid confusion with the number of sessions that each participant was expected to attend as part of the intervention protocol.

2. Discussion: Contrast with previous literature, if any, and highlight the clinical and research implications of this project.

We greatly expanded the Discussion section to include both research and clinical implications of our study and findings. (pp. 12-13)

3. Interpretation regarding the findings of symptom improvement. We now acknowledge that, given the small sample afforded by this pilot project, we are unable to conduct mechanistic analysis identifying the relative contribution of individual intervention components or underlying behavioral processes (e.g., increased socializing through group sessions, increased self-esteem from learning a new skill) to the observed improved outcomes.

We also note that future studies including a larger and more diverse sample of Veterans with PTSD are needed to conduct such an important evaluation.

4. Conclusion: Sentence “Ease of recruitment for the study …” should be moved to the Discussion.

Done.