Author’s response to reviews

Title: The effect of induced optimism on the optimistic update bias

Authors:

Shinpei Yoshimura (s-yoshimura@otemon.ac.jp)

Yuma Hashimoto (16gp001@haruka.otemon.ac.jp)

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Author’s response to reviews:

Response to reviews

We appreciate the time and effort that you and the reviewers have dedicated to providing your valuable feedback on my manuscript.

Reviewer’s comment

(Reviewer1)

Comment: 1. Results (pg. 11) - We examined change in the dysphoria and optimism before and after the manipulation for each dysphoria group in a three way (2 x 2 x 2) ANOVA (Condition: induced optimism vs. control x dysphoria group: low, mild, high x time: pre-manipulation vs post manipulation. Should it be 2 x 3 (dysphoria group: low, mild, high) x 2 ?.

Response: We modified the number of levels in dysphoria group.

Comment: 2. Discussion (pg. 13) line 22 -" Participants in the mild dysphoria group who participated in the induced optimism condition however, showed a high update bias rather than a low one compared to the high dysphoria group" - The sentence compared to the high dysphoria group does not make sense, are you comparing the between the low and high dysphoric group here or are you comparing the mild group to the high dysphoria group ?. - Please rewrite this.

Response: We rewrote this sentence based on the above comment.

Participants in the mild dysphoria group who participated in the induced optimism condition however, showed a high update bias rather than either the high or low dysphoria group.

Comment: 3. Conclusion - Given that no significant different was found between intervention vs control conditions - there is no evidence to support that the induced optimism training can help to
increase optimism in the future. Although differences were reported in the intervention condition, the main point is if you received the induced program vs no induced program - the outcomes on dysphoria and optimism scores were not significantly different.

Response: We agree with this comment. We revised Conclusion section as follows.

The current study indicates that imagining a positive future enables mild dysphoric individuals to increase positive beliefs about the future to a certain extent. However, contrary to our prediction and previous study, imagining a positive future did not alter both dysphoria and dispositional optimism. Regardless of this fact, induced optimism provides a potential to cause both an overestimation of desirable information and underestimation of undesirable information followed by the belief updating task. Future research is needed to replicate the current findings with a bigger sample size and include participants with clinical depression.

(Reviewer2)

Comment: As I stated in the first revision of the manuscript, the Authors should revise the citations in the text as this example:

Response: These citations were already corrected in the first revision of our manuscript expect for following points.

P6 L56 measured with the Center for Epidemiologic Studies Depression scale (CES-D) (Radloff, 1977).

Should be: P6 L56 measured with the Center for Epidemiologic Studies Depression scale (CES-D; Radloff, 1977).

Comment: P7 L35 (LOT-R) (Scheire, Carver, & Bridges, 1994) were measured before and after the conditions.

Should be:

P7 L35 (LOT-R; Scheire, Carver, & Bridges, 1994) were measured before and after the conditions.

Response: We corrected above sentences as follows.

Participant’s dysphoria levels were measured with the Center for Epidemiologic Studies Depression scale (CES-D; Radloff, 1977).
Dispositional optimism was measured using the Japanese translation of the Life Orientation Test Revised (LOT-R; Scheier, Carver, & Bridges, 1994), which reflects the extent to which individuals generally expect favorable outcomes.