Reviewer’s report

Title: Cognitive Remediation Therapy (CRT) as a Pretreatment Intervention for Adolescents with Anorexia Nervosa during Medical Hospitalization: A Pilot Randomized Controlled Trial Protocol

Version: 0 Date: 16 Jan 2018

Reviewer: Danielle Colborn

Reviewer's report:

This is an exciting study with great potential to positively influence current treatment protocols for adolescent Anorexia Nervosa (AN). The authors have been very thorough and ethical in the design of the study and are adhering to the highest standards of scientific rigor.

One recommendation I have is that the authors reconsider their use of the term "deficit" when referring to difficulties in set-shifting (SS) and central coherence (CC) in patients with AN. Although the term "deficit" is frequently used this way in the current literature, if you examine the data in most studies, including those cited by the authors in this manuscript, AN participants most often fall within the normal range on tests of SS and CC although frequently perform more poorly than controls. The findings in studies with adolescent participants with AN show participants are even more likely to be in the average to above average range. While I understand talking about these difficulties as deficits strengthens arguments for supporting research in this area I believe it distorts the picture of what we are looking at which is more relative individual weaknesses rather than stark deficits.

Many thanks to the authors for this important and intriguing study.

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