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: 1 Date: 28 Feb 2018

Reviewer: Melanie Brown

Reviewer's report:

The revisions to the manuscript address well the concerns raised regarding in the first draft. Your re-organization and editing of the Methods/Study Design and Background sections are excellent and greatly improve the flow of the paper. In particular, the way that you have explained the relationship between cognitive flexibility and perfectionism/compulsive behaviors on p. 5 does a good job in explaining the connection between the empirically supported neurocognitive weaknesses (set shifting and central coherence) and expression of those problems in a perfectionistic thinking style.

Some minor comments:

Background:

1. The Objectives Section is a very helpful addition that clarifies the specific outcomes being measured (pp. 8-9). The last paragraph of the Rational for CRT section (top of p. 8) also describes the aims, but the way that they are set out is not very consistent with the Aims in the Objectives section, which comes next. For example, the pilot and feasibility RCT aims of "pilot recruitment, randomization procedures, and assessment batteries" in this paragraph at top of p.8 are described as "recruitment, treatment administration, and participant retention" and "assessment battery" in Primary Aims below. A suggestion is to make these two sections more consistent.

Methods/Study Design:

1. Description of Investigational Intervention: The clarifications about how you plan to standardize the intervention on p. 13-14 and in Table 1 make it much easier to understand how you plan to administer CRT. It seems overwhelming that you plan to administer all 11 of the CRT tasks listed for session 1 though, for example. I gather that you vary the number/types of tasks for each person based on personal performance?
2. Table 1. Typo in the Note - replace "CC-" with "CC="

3. Randomized Groups (pp. 13-14): The heading are currently "Teach the Parent (TTP)", "Contact Control - Family fun Time (FFT)" and "Treatment as Usual." I think you forgot to add the "CRT" aspect to each of the first two interventions - not all three randomization conditions receive CRT as described above. In other words: "CRT + TTP" and "CRT + FFT." Also what is the minimum number of TTP and FFT sessions to be considered completion of the intervention? It looks like only 1 for TTP and 3-4 for FFT the way it is written.

4. Typo p. 15 line 17. "neuro-psychological" - this is spelled "neuropsychological" elsewhere

5. Typo p. 16, line 9. "day of; discharge"

Discussion

1. Suggestion to refer to the groups consistently throughout the manuscript, as CRT+TTP and CRT+FFT for example. Line four of Discussion references "CRT + contact control group" but it's CRT+FFT elsewhere.

2. Aims/Outcomes - Suggestion again to keep these consistent throughout. In the Discussion you mention "not perceived as burdensome" to staff or families, but do not mention acceptability in your Primary Aims, even though you have outcome measures that do that.

3. Last sentence in paragraph on p. 21 does not need hyphen

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