Fang-Fang Ji, PhD

Science Editor

World Journal of Psychiatry

June 5, 2017

Re: Manuscript NO: 34110-manuscript revision

Dear Dr. Fang-Fang Ji:

Attached is the revision of the manuscript entitled "Biobehavioral Assessment of the Anxiety Disorders: Current progress and future directions" (Manuscript NO: 34110). Below are our responses to the reviewers' insightful comments.

Reviewer's code: 03672830

1. This paragraph has been rewritten and reorganized to better achieve its purpose of summarizing the concerns listed in the introduction to this point, introducing the focus on anxiety-related disorders, and introducing the concept of biobehavoral measures a potential solution.

2. The sentence has been changed to a more moderated statement "Despite their greatly decreased cost, the sensitivity of these tools are very promising for identifying unique symptoms of anxiety disorders salient to accurate differential diagnoses[34]."

3. This redundant statement has been deleted.

4. The grammar of this sentence has been corrected.

5. The editor had raised no concern over the formatting of the price of these items.d.

6. The term "negative feedback" has been replaces with "reinforcing feedback" as suggested.

7.

a. The suggested table has been added.

b. Due to a lack of consistent measures across articles on this topic, a figure of interesting examples of original eye-tracking studies was not possible at this time.

8. The beginning of this sentence was change from "In summary all anxiety disorders exhibit…" to "In summary, the majority of anxiety disorders exhibit…"

9. These paragraphs have been rewritten to more clearly fit into the discussion as suggested.

10. A statement addressing how the FDA and EMA can be a part of the solution has been added.

Reviewer's code: 02445374

1. The language of the article has been polished and corrected.

Reviewer's code: 02445261

As suggested, the introduction section has been shortened and the redundant statements deleted.

The biobehavioral approach has been expounded upon (see page 8) in the paragraph beginning "Why do we use the term biobehavioral?"

While we appreciate that in the future biobehavioral measures may also be used to identify relevant predictors of treatment non-adherence, we believe that this paper focusing on diagnosis and assessment is not the best place to address this important topic.

A statement addressing the *DSM-5*'s use of specifiers has been added (see page 6).

A statement addressing why this article chose to include ADHD and Major Depression and how biobehavioral measures can help differentially diagnose anxiety disorders in relation to these disorders has been added (on page 12). "Self-report can be a helpful tool to this end, but biobehavioral measures of physiological markers through eye-tracking can provide insight into internal processes which may assist in differentially diagnosing ADHD and MDD from disorders like OCD, PTSD, GAD, SAD, and specific phobia, especially in cases where a client has a lack of insight or where there are barriers to accurate verbal communication."

Multiple citations have been added to document the existence of the biomarker nature of the biological indicators discussed in the article and the involvement of the autonomic nervous system in in the anxiety related disorders.
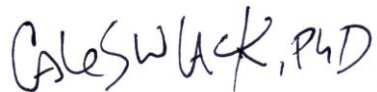
The most relevant shortcomings/limitations related to the use of eye tracking to assess/diagnose have now been extensively reported throughout this section of text (see pages 14, 16-18).

Statements such as "statements such as: "the future of psychotherapy should rely on the interaction between basic science, technological advancements, and clinical practice" have been deleted from the final text.

Additional concluding remarks have been added (see the paragraph beginning on page 26 beginning with "In conclusion…").

If, after review of the above changes, further revision is needed, please feel free to contact me at the below information.

Warm Regards,

Caleb W. Lack, Ph.D.
Associate Professor,
Department of Psychology,
University of Central Oklahoma,
100 N University Drive,
Edmond, OK 73034 USA.
clack@uco.edu