



PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: *World Journal of Psychiatry*

Manuscript NO: 79304

Title: Development of a protocol for videoconferencing-based exposure and response prevention treatment of obsessive-compulsive disorder during the COVID-19 pandemic

Provenance and peer review: Invited Manuscript; Externally peer reviewed

Peer-review model: Single blind

Reviewer's code: 04480403

Position: Peer Reviewer

Academic degree: MD

Professional title: Doctor

Reviewer's Country/Territory: Thailand

Author's Country/Territory: India

Manuscript submission date: 2022-08-14

Reviewer chosen by: AI Technique

Reviewer accepted review: 2022-08-16 11:07

Reviewer performed review: 2022-08-23 04:53

Review time: 6 Days and 17 Hours

Scientific quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
Language quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection
Conclusion	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept (High priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
Re-review	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No



Peer-reviewer statements	Peer-Review: [<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>] Anonymous [<input type="checkbox"/>] Onymous Conflicts-of-Interest: [<input type="checkbox"/>] Yes [<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>] No
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SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

1 Title: The title reflects the main subject of the manuscript. 2 Abstract: It summarizes the work in this study. However, some words should be described in stead of using unclear meaning such as "minimum standards of care", "effective". Be careful of mentioning the result out of this study, for example, "...similar to inpatient ERP in the short term but better in the long term". Hybrid care...yielded better results. 3 Key words: The key words reflect the focus of the manuscript and "covid-19 pandemic" can be added 4 Background: VC-ERP or TMH-based ERP or CBT in other countries should be elaborated. 5 Methods: 5.1-The reasons and details of using different platforms (Zoom, WhatsApp, messaging, phone call, email) 5.2- Experties or experiences of treating OCD patients from group leaders? 5.3- Again, please clarify minimum standards of care. 5.4- Is YBOCS used for screening? Which version of YBOCS do the authors used in this study, interviewer-rated or self rated? 5.5 -The five-step approach should be referred in more detail in table 1 5.6 -Inclusion and exclusion criteria if the participants. 5.7- According to the using of t-test with small sample size, Does your data normally distributed? If not, considering non parametric test. 6 Results: 6.1-Many confounders might effect the result, such as pharmacological treatment and comorbidities. How the authors control these effect? 6.2- How about the criteria for using hybrid treatment? How to differentiate the effect of onsite treatment from online one? 7 Discussion: 7.1-What are the difference between VC-ERP and internet-based CBT? 7.2- It seems like the authors focus on the benefit of VC-ERP. Could it be added more information about the developmental process of the protocol for it? (As stated in the title) 7.3- How can this protocol be generalized for other OCD patients which were



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not included in this study? 8 Illustrations and tables: Most of tables are too jam-packed.
9 Biostatistics: Does the manuscript meet the requirements of biostatistics?-yes 10 Units:
Does the manuscript meet the requirements of use of SI units?-yes 11 References: The
references of VC-ERP or internet-based CBT for OCD from other countries should be
added. 12 Quality of manuscript organization and presentation: Is the manuscript well,
concisely and coherently organized and presented? Is the style, language and grammar
accurate and appropriate?-yes 13 Research methods and reporting: The authors mostly
complied with STROBE statement. 14 Ethics statements: Please clarify this statement"
Since patients were not contacted or assessed for this study, written informed consent
was not required"



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Peer-review model: Single blind

Reviewer's code: 06214327

Position: Peer Reviewer

Academic degree: MM

Professional title: Academic Fellow, Chief Doctor

Reviewer's Country/Territory: China

Author's Country/Territory: India

Manuscript submission date: 2022-08-14

Reviewer chosen by: Dong-Mei Wang

Reviewer accepted review: 2022-09-28 02:15

Reviewer performed review: 2022-10-03 06:55

Review time: 5 Days and 4 Hours

Scientific quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
Language quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection
Conclusion	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept (High priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
Re-review	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No



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Peer-reviewer statements	Peer-Review: [<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>] Anonymous [<input type="checkbox"/>] Onymous Conflicts-of-Interest: [<input type="checkbox"/>] Yes [<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>] No
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SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

Thank you very much for the opportunity to review this study. From the content of the manuscript, we can see that the research team has paid a lot of work. For this study, I propose the following suggestions: 1. As the author said, not everyone participated in the study. For the treatment of obsessive-compulsive disorder itself, the patient's compliance also plays a decisive role. The patients who completed VC-ERP were those with good compliance, and the results obtained in this way seem to be biased, so it is recommended to explain in the limitation section. 2. The authors should add whether the methods followed the Declaration of Helsinki. 3. The authors used the Student's t-test. Are the data normally distributed? 4. Many patients complicated with other mental disorders and used related psychotropic drugs. How to evaluate drug confounding factors? 5. Table 5: Only 11 patients finally completed VC-ERP, with multiple confounding factors (df=20). The statistical results were not convinced.



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Provenance and peer review: Invited Manuscript; Externally peer reviewed

Peer-review model: Single blind

Reviewer's code: 05849395

Position: Peer Reviewer

Academic degree: BSc

Professional title: Adjunct Professor, Chief Physician

Reviewer's Country/Territory: China

Author's Country/Territory: India

Manuscript submission date: 2022-08-14

Reviewer chosen by: Dong-Mei Wang

Reviewer accepted review: 2022-09-29 12:24

Reviewer performed review: 2022-10-04 12:05

Review time: 4 Days and 23 Hours

Scientific quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
Language quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection
Conclusion	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept (High priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rejection
Re-review	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No



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Peer-reviewer statements	Peer-Review: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous <input type="checkbox"/> Onymous Conflicts-of-Interest: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
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SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

This study extensively covered the development and implementation of a videoconferencing-based exposure and response prevention (VC-ERP) therapy for obsessive-compulsive disorder during the Covid-19 pandemic , which also helps promote options of increasing the accessibility of mental health service in resource-limited settings . The study was a non-randomized , non-controlled descriptive study , and the small sample size and significant heterogeneity among participants - both in primary OCD and in OCD secondary to other psychiatric disorders - compromised the scientific validity of the findings .



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Provenance and peer review: Invited Manuscript; Externally peer reviewed

Peer-review model: Single blind

Reviewer's code: 06074898

Position: Peer Reviewer

Academic degree: PhD

Professional title: Associate Professor

Reviewer's Country/Territory: China

Author's Country/Territory: India

Manuscript submission date: 2022-08-14

Reviewer chosen by: Dong-Mei Wang

Reviewer accepted review: 2022-09-28 05:57

Reviewer performed review: 2022-10-07 07:12

Review time: 9 Days and 1 Hour

Scientific quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
Language quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection
Conclusion	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept (High priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
Re-review	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No



Peer-reviewer statements	Peer-Review: [<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>] Anonymous [<input type="checkbox"/>] Onymous Conflicts-of-Interest: [<input type="checkbox"/>] Yes [<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>] No
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SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

This manuscript was aimed to provide preliminary evidence for the feasibility and effectiveness of VC-ERP in the treatment of OCD. The results suggest that VC-ERP can be a useful option in resource-constrained settings. These findings provide a new approach in treating OCD in developing country during the pandemic. However, there are some issues need to be clearly illustrated. (1) In my opinion, this is a research of intervention. And it also can be seen by author's description "In result part, authors say that a large proportion of the eligible patients (79%) underwent (n=12) or are currently undergoing ERP (n=22). "Therefore, authors need to provide oral or written consent from patients or their family guidance in ethical considerations part. (2) In participants part, what is the meaning for the sentences "During subsequent follow-up, the diagnosis was revised in one patient ". It means the patients became worse, or became better. It is not clear from current description. (3) The logic thread of the manuscript is clear. Here's what I learned that the manuscript can be organized by introduction, method (participants, materials, data procedure, data analysis), results, discussion, conclude. (4) The article need provide more evidence for the efficacy of the VC-Erp, especially for the quantitative evidence and qualitative evidence. (5) In discussion part, there is no evidence for the comparison between Videoconferencing-based ERP for OCD versus internet-based CBT in this manuscript, why comparing the efficacy of treatment between two methods.



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Provenance and peer review: Invited Manuscript; Externally peer reviewed

Peer-review model: Single blind

Reviewer's code: 06088304

Position: Peer Reviewer

Academic degree: MBBS, MSc

Professional title: Assistant Professor, Consultant Physician-Scientist

Reviewer's Country/Territory: United Arab Emirates

Author's Country/Territory: India

Manuscript submission date: 2022-08-14

Reviewer chosen by: Dong-Mei Wang

Reviewer accepted review: 2022-09-28 02:58

Reviewer performed review: 2022-10-10 11:02

Review time: 12 Days and 8 Hours

Scientific quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
Language quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection
Conclusion	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept (High priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
Re-review	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No



Peer-reviewer statements	Peer-Review: [<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>] Anonymous [<input type="checkbox"/>] Onymous Conflicts-of-Interest: [<input type="checkbox"/>] Yes [<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>] No
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SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

Title. The title does capture the main theme of the article: i.e. protocol development for a video-conferencing based treatment model for OCD. 2 Abstract. The abstract is succinct and relevant to the topic. 3 Key words. Do the key words reflect the focus of the manuscript? Yes. I, however, suggest adding tele-medicine to the key words. 4 Background. Does the manuscript adequately describe the background, present status and significance of the study? Yes, A good introduction in to what is currently available and the need to improve the services, especially in a rural backdrop. The authors have also described the difficulties faced during the COVID-19 crisis as another reason to justify developing a robust video-based therapy protocol. 5 Methods. Does the manuscript describe methods (e.g., experiments, data analysis, surveys, and clinical trials, etc.) in adequate detail? Yes. 6 Results. Are the research objectives achieved by the experiments used in this study? What are the contributions that the study has made for research progress in this field? This study will strengthen the current knowledge-base in the field of tele-medicine. 7 Discussion. Does the manuscript interpret the findings adequately and appropriately, highlighting the key points concisely, clearly and logically? Are the findings and their applicability/relevance to the literature stated in a clear and definite manner? Is the discussion accurate and does it discuss the paper's scientific significance and/or relevance to clinical practice sufficiently? Yes. 8 Illustrations and tables. Are the figures, diagrams and tables sufficient, good quality and appropriately illustrative of the paper contents? Do figures require labeling with arrows, asterisks etc., better legends? The six tables are self explanatory and compliment the text well. 9 Biostatistics. Does the manuscript meet



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the requirements of biostatistics? Yes 10 Units. Does the manuscript meet the requirements of use of SI units? NA 11 References. Does the manuscript cite appropriately the latest, important and authoritative references in the introduction and discussion sections? Does the author self-cite, omit, incorrectly cite and/or over-cite references? References are appropriately cited. 12 Quality of manuscript organization and presentation. Is the manuscript well, concisely and coherently organized and presented? Is the style, language and grammar accurate and appropriate? Minor language adjustments needed. For example: Page 10 'Finally, the hierarchies were not inflexible and were changed according to the patient's needs' change patient's to patients'. 13 Research methods and reporting. Authors should have prepared their manuscripts according to manuscript type and the appropriate categories, as follows: (1) CARE Checklist (2013) - Case report; (2) CONSORT 2010 Statement - Clinical Trials study, Prospective study, Randomized Controlled trial, Randomized Clinical trial; (3) PRISMA 2009 Checklist - Evidence-Based Medicine, Systematic review, Meta-Analysis; (4) STROBE Statement - Case Control study, Observational study, Retrospective Cohort study; and (5) The ARRIVE Guidelines - Basic study. Did the author prepare the manuscript according to the appropriate research methods and reporting? STROBE statement attached. 14 Ethics statements. For all manuscripts involving human studies and/or animal experiments, author(s) must submit the related formal ethics documents that were reviewed and approved by their local ethical review committee. Did the manuscript meet the requirements of ethics? Noted. No concerns