

Dear Editors, dear Reviewers,

Thank you for your valuable comments on our research paper entitled “Believing processes during the COVID-19 pandemic in individuals with bipolar disorder: An exploratory study”.

We were able to incorporate all the reviewers' suggestions into the revised version. We would like to express our sincere gratitude for the helpful comments that have contributed to the significant improvement of this paper. We hope that it is now ready for publication in the *World Journal of Psychiatry*.

Explanations: Content changes are highlighted green in the “marked” manuscript file. Changes concerning the English editing are highlighted yellow in the manuscript.

Kind regards,

Sophie Tietz, Nina Dalkner, and colleagues

Response to Reviewer 1

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? - improper addressed

Our response: Thank you for bringing this to our attention. Following your comment, we were able to prepare the manuscript according to manuscript type and the suggested categories: CARE Checklist, CONSORT 2010 Statement, PRISMA 2009 Checklist, STROBE Statement.

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? – not the case

Our response: We assure you that our study fulfills the requirements: The study protocol was approved by the local ethics committee in accordance with the current revision of the Declaration of Helsinki, ICH guideline for Good Clinical Practice and current regulations (Medical University of Graz, Austria; individuals with BD were from the BIPLONG study, EK-number: 25-335 ex 12/13; data was collected in the course of a new study, EK number: 32-363 ex 19/20) and all participants signed informed consent prior participating.

Response to Reviewer 2

1) This is not a basic study. This is a case-control study.

2) Why was ARRIVE guideline provided? This study was not conducted on lab animals?

4) Why was Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee Approval Form or Document provided? This study was not conducted on lab animals?

Our response: We totally agree and modified all statements according to your comment. We corrected basic study into case-control study, deleted ARRIVE guidelines and the other forms not relevant for this study.

3) A valid Non-Native Speakers of English Editing Certificate was not provided.

Our response: We have included a certificate from a valid non-native speaker. Additionally, the text was edited by Beth Spitznagl, Associate Professor of the Kent State University, and statement included in the acknowledgments.

5) An author should not provide Biostatistics Review Certificate themselves (if not an expert in Biostatistics). Please revise and resubmit in the correct form.

Our response: We totally agree and had a statistician and Dr.scient in psychology at our institute, but from another research group, check all statistical results and attached his certificate.

Response to Reviewer 3

2. The abstract summarize and reflect the work described in the manuscript. However, in BACKGROUND section line 1, the word "Cogn Emot" was incorrected.

4. The manuscript adequately describe the background, present status, and significance of the study. The authors explain "believing", "bipolar disorder". However, in INTRODUCTION section, the word "Cogn Emot" was incorrected.

Our response: Thank you for pointing that out. The phrase "Cogn emot" was replaced by the correct phrase "cognition and emotion".

Response to Science editor

This is not a basic study.

Our response: We totally agree and have corrected this.

Self Citation Count: 4. The self-referencing rate should be less than 3%. It is unacceptable to have more than 3 references from the same journal. To resolve this issue and move forward in the peer-review/publication process, please revise your reference list accordingly.

Our response: Thank you for letting us know about this issue, which we hope we have resolved to your satisfaction. Now our manuscript contains no more than three references from the same journal. In addition, we removed several self-references, however, it was not possible to remove all citations from our colleagues Hans-Ferdinand Angel and Rüdiger J. Seitz, as the credition model is based on their research. We hope that this is acceptable given the innovation and evolution of this new model in clinical samples.

Response to Company editor-in-chief:

Please provide decomposable Figures (in which all components are movable and editable), organize them into a single PowerPoint file. Please authors are required to provide standard three-line tables, that is, only the top line, bottom line, and column line are displayed, while other table lines are hidden. The contents of each cell in the table should conform to the editing specifications, and the lines of each row or column of the table should be aligned. Do not use carriage returns or spaces to replace lines or vertical lines and do not segment cell content. Please check and confirm whether the figures are original (i.e., generated de novo by the author(s) for this paper). If the picture is 'original', the author needs to add the following copyright information to the bottom right-hand side of the picture in PowerPoint (PPT): Copyright ©The Author(s) 2022.

Our response: Thank you for your help with this. We have now created a PowerPoint file according to your instructions.