

Dear Editor,

The authors would like to thank the reviewers for thorough reading of this manuscript and their insightful comments. We appreciate the positive feedback. Here is a point-by-point response (please find the reviewer comments in italics).

Comment 1:

Unfortunately, as acknowledged by the authors themselves in one of the final paragraphs of discussion, the paper suffers of several limitations. Despite being almost impossible to collect an adequate number of “homogeneous” studies and perform a perfect statistical correction, authors might want to consider mentioning also if such studies specified or not any possible gender differences and, in case, provide a brief comment on their possible role (i.e., does internal source-monitoring in OCD could possibly occur more often in women than in men? Could this difference be considered statistically significant?).

Reply:

The reviewer raised an important point here. Indeed, evidence suggests that gender is a relevant factor that influences OCD phenomenology. Unfortunately, most of the studies retained in our systematic review did not assess gender difference even if some of them only included women or included more women than men in their samples of participants. Further studies are needed to clarify the link between gender and source monitoring in patients with OCD. As suggested by the reviewer, we modified the 6§ of the discussion to emphasize this point.

Comment 2:

Similarly, authors may want to mention if any of the studies selected presented any finding on ethnic difference (i.e. Afro-americans vs. Asians?).

Reply:

We are grateful to the reviewer to have pointed this issue. Indeed, ethnicity is also known to influence OCD symptomatology. Unfortunately, none of the studies that are reviewed in our manuscript reported ethnicity. We have also notified this point in the 6§ of discussion.

Comment 3:

I would encourage the authors to correct minor grammar mistakes and minor formatting mistakes (i.e., reference 12, 13, 14 are sometimes reported in () and should be in [] instead).

Reply:

The minor errors pointing by the reviewer have been corrected.