

CONSORT-EHEALTH (V 1.6.1) - Submission/Publication Form

The CONSORT-EHEALTH checklist is intended for authors of randomized trials evaluating web-based and Internet-based applications/interventions, including mobile interventions, electronic games (incl multiplayer games), social media, certain telehealth applications, and other interactive and/or networked electronic applications. Some of the items (e.g. all subitems under item 5 - description of the intervention) may also be applicable for other study designs.

The goal of the CONSORT EHEALTH checklist and guideline is to be

- a) a guide for reporting for authors of RCTs,
- b) to form a basis for appraisal of an ehealth trial (in terms of validity)

CONSORT-EHEALTH items/subitems are MANDATORY reporting items for studies published in the Journal of Medical Internet Research and other journals / scientific societies endorsing the checklist.

Items numbered 1., 2., 3., 4a., 4b etc are original CONSORT or CONSORT-NPT (non-pharmacologic treatment) items.

Items with Roman numerals (i., ii, iii, iv etc.) are CONSORT-EHEALTH extensions/clarifications.

As the CONSORT-EHEALTH checklist is still considered in a formative stage, we would ask that you also RATE ON A SCALE OF 1-5 how important/useful you feel each item is FOR THE PURPOSE OF THE CHECKLIST and reporting guideline (optional).

Mandatory reporting items are marked with a red *.

In the textboxes, either copy & paste the relevant sections from your manuscript into this form - please include any quotes from your manuscript in QUOTATION MARKS, or answer directly by providing additional information not in the manuscript, or elaborating on why the item was not relevant for this study.

YOUR ANSWERS WILL BE PUBLISHED AS A SUPPLEMENTARY FILE TO YOUR PUBLICATION IN JMIR AND ARE CONSIDERED PART OF YOUR PUBLICATION (IF ACCEPTED).

Please fill in these questions diligently. Information will not be copyedited, so please use proper spelling and grammar, use correct capitalization, and avoid abbreviations.

DO NOT FORGET TO SAVE AS PDF _AND_ CLICK THE SUBMIT BUTTON SO YOUR ANSWERS ARE IN OUR DATABASE !!!

Citation Suggestion (if you append the pdf as Appendix we suggest to cite this paper in the

caption):

Eysenbach G, CONSORT-EHEALTH Group

CONSORT-EHEALTH: Improving and Standardizing Evaluation Reports of Web-based and Mobile Health Interventions

J Med Internet Res 2011;13(4):e126

URL: <http://www.jmir.org/2011/4/e126/>

doi: 10.2196/jmir.1923

PMID: 22209829

* Erforderlich

Your name *

First Last

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Title of your manuscript *

Provide the (draft) title of your manuscript.

Meine Antwort

Name of your App/Software/Intervention *

If there is a short and a long/alternate name, write the short name first and add the long name in brackets.

MT-Phoenix (mentalis Phoenix)

Evaluated Version (if any)

e.g. "V1", "Release 2017-03-01", "Version 2.0.27913"

Meine Antwort

Language(s) *

What language is the intervention/app in? If multiple languages are available, separate by comma (e.g. "English, French")

German

URL of your Intervention Website or App

e.g. a direct link to the mobile app on app in appstore (itunes, Google Play), or URL of the website. If the intervention is a DVD or hardware, you can also link to an Amazon page.

<https://www.mentalis-health.com>

URL of an image/screenshot (optional)

Meine Antwort

Accessibility *

Can an enduser access the intervention presently?

- access is free and open
- access only for special usergroups, not open
- access is open to everyone, but requires payment/subscription/in-app purchases
- app/intervention no longer accessible
- Sonstiges: _____

Primary Medical Indication/Disease/Condition *

e.g. "Stress", "Diabetes", or define the target group in brackets after the condition, e.g. "Autism (Parents of children with)", "Alzheimers (Informal Caregivers of)"

Depression

Primary Outcomes measured in trial *

comma-separated list of primary outcomes reported in the trial

PHQ-9

Secondary/other outcomes

Are there any other outcomes the intervention is expected to affect?

Meine Antwort

Recommended "Dose" *

What do the instructions for users say on how often the app should be used?

- Approximately Daily
- Approximately Weekly
- Approximately Monthly
- Approximately Yearly
- "as needed"
- Sonstiges: _____

Approx. Percentage of Users (starters) still using the app as recommended after 3 months *

unknown / not evaluated

0-10%

11-20%

21-30%

31-40%

41-50%

51-60%

61-70%

71%-80%

81-90%

91-100%

Sonstiges: _____

Overall, was the app/intervention effective? *

- yes: all primary outcomes were significantly better in intervention group vs control
- partly: SOME primary outcomes were significantly better in intervention group vs control
- no statistically significant difference between control and intervention
- potentially harmful: control was significantly better than intervention in one or more outcomes
- inconclusive: more research is needed
- Sonstiges: _____

Article Preparation Status/Stage *

At which stage in your article preparation are you currently (at the time you fill in this form)

- not submitted yet - in early draft status
- not submitted yet - in late draft status, just before submission
- submitted to a journal but not reviewed yet
- submitted to a journal and after receiving initial reviewer comments
- submitted to a journal and accepted, but not published yet
- published
- Sonstiges: _____

Journal *

If you already know where you will submit this paper (or if it is already submitted), please provide the journal name (if it is not JMIR, provide the journal name under "other")

- not submitted yet / unclear where I will submit this
- Journal of Medical Internet Research (JMIR)
- JMIR mHealth and UHealth
- JMIR Serious Games
- JMIR Mental Health
- JMIR Public Health
- JMIR Formative Research
- Other JMIR sister journal
- Sonstiges: _____

Is this a full powered effectiveness trial or a pilot/feasibility trial? *

- Pilot/feasibility
- Fully powered

Manuscript tracking number *

If this is a JMIR submission, please provide the manuscript tracking number under "other" (The ms tracking number can be found in the submission acknowledgement email, or when you login as author in JMIR. If the paper is already published in JMIR, then the ms tracking number is the four-digit number at the end of the DOI, to be found at the bottom of each published article in JMIR)

no ms number (yet) / not (yet) submitted to / published in JMIR

Sonstiges: _____

TITLE AND ABSTRACT**1a) TITLE: Identification as a randomized trial in the title****1a) Does your paper address CONSORT item 1a? ***

I.e does the title contain the phrase "Randomized Controlled Trial"? (if not, explain the reason under "other")

yes

Sonstiges: _____

1a-i) Identify the mode of delivery in the title

Identify the mode of delivery. Preferably use "web-based" and/or "mobile" and/or "electronic game" in the title. Avoid ambiguous terms like "online", "virtual", "interactive". Use "Internet-based" only if Intervention includes non-web-based Internet components (e.g. email), use "computer-based" or "electronic" only if offline products are used. Use "virtual" only in the context of "virtual reality" (3-D worlds). Use "online" only in the context of "online support groups". Complement or substitute product names with broader terms for the class of products (such as "mobile" or "smart phone" instead of "iphone"), especially if the application runs on different platforms.

	1	2	3	4	5	
subitem not at all important	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	essential

Does your paper address subitem 1a-i? *

Copy and paste relevant sections from manuscript title (include quotes in quotation marks "like this" to indicate direct quotes from your manuscript), or elaborate on this item by providing additional information not in the ms, or briefly explain why the item is not applicable/relevant for your study

"A Gamified Smartphone-based Intervention for Depression: Randomized Controlled Pilot Trial."

1a-ii) Non-web-based components or important co-interventions in title

Mention non-web-based components or important co-interventions in title, if any (e.g., "with telephone support").

	1	2	3	4	5	
subitem not at all important	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	essential

Does your paper address subitem 1a-ii?

Copy and paste relevant sections from manuscript title (include quotes in quotation marks "like this" to indicate direct quotes from your manuscript), or elaborate on this item by providing additional information not in the ms, or briefly explain why the item is not applicable/relevant for your study

Meine Antwort

1a-iii) Primary condition or target group in the title

Mention primary condition or target group in the title, if any (e.g., "for children with Type I Diabetes")
Example: A Web-based and Mobile Intervention with Telephone Support for Children with Type I Diabetes: Randomized Controlled Trial

	1	2	3	4	5	
subitem not at all important	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	essential

Does your paper address subitem 1a-iii? *

Copy and paste relevant sections from manuscript title (include quotes in quotation marks "like this" to indicate direct quotes from your manuscript), or elaborate on this item by providing additional information not in the ms, or briefly explain why the item is not applicable/relevant for your study

"A Gamified Smartphone-based Intervention for Depression: Randomized Controlled Pilot Trial."

1b) ABSTRACT: Structured summary of trial design, methods, results, and conclusions

NPT extension: Description of experimental treatment, comparator, care providers, centers, and blinding status.

1b-i) Key features/functionalities/components of the intervention and comparator in the METHODS section of the ABSTRACT

Mention key features/functionalities/components of the intervention and comparator in the abstract. If possible, also mention theories and principles used for designing the site. Keep in mind the needs of systematic reviewers and indexers by including important synonyms. (Note: Only report in the abstract what the main paper is reporting. If this information is missing from the main body of text, consider adding it)

	1	2	3	4	5	
subitem not at all important	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	essential

Does your paper address subitem 1b-i? *

Copy and paste relevant sections from the manuscript abstract (include quotes in quotation marks "like this" to indicate direct quotes from your manuscript), or elaborate on this item by providing additional information not in the ms, or briefly explain why the item is not applicable/relevant for your study

"Background: Available smartphone-based interventions (SBIs) for depression predominantly utilize evidence-based strategies from cognitive-behavioral therapy (CBT), but patient engagement and reported effect sizes are small. Recently, studies have demonstrated that SBIs combining CBT with gamified approach avoidance bias modification training (AAMT) can foster patient engagement and reduce symptoms in several mental health problems. Objectives: Based on these findings, we developed a gamified SBI (mentalis Phoenix; MT-Phoenix) and hypothesized the program to both engage patients and produce preliminary evidence for the reduction of depressive symptoms. Methods: To test this hypothesis, we evaluated MT-Phoenix in a randomized controlled pilot trial including N=77 individuals with elevated depression scores (PHQ-9 scores ≥ 5). Participants were instructed to either train for 14-days with MT-Phoenix or were assigned to a waitlist control condition. Engagement with the intervention was measured by assessing usage data. Primary outcome was reduction in depressive symptom severity at post-assessment. Results: Data from this pilot trial shows that participants in the intervention group used the SBI at 45.6% of all days and reported a significantly greater reduction of depressive symptoms than did participants in the control condition ($F_{1,74}=19.34$; $P=.001$) with a large effect size ($d=1.02$). Effects were sustained at a 3-months follow-up. Conclusions: A gamified SBI combining CBT with AAMT may foster patient engagement and effectively target depressive symptoms. Future studies should evaluate the effectiveness of this intervention in a Phase III trial using clinical samples. Moreover, the intervention should be compared to active control conditions."

1b-ii) Level of human involvement in the METHODS section of the ABSTRACT

Clarify the level of human involvement in the abstract, e.g., use phrases like “fully automated” vs. “therapist/nurse/care provider/physician-assisted” (mention number and expertise of providers involved, if any). (Note: Only report in the abstract what the main paper is reporting. If this information is missing from the main body of text, consider adding it)

	1	2	3	4	5	
subitem not at all important	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	essential

Does your paper address subitem 1b-ii?

Copy and paste relevant sections from the manuscript abstract (include quotes in quotation marks "like this" to indicate direct quotes from your manuscript), or elaborate on this item by providing additional information not in the ms, or briefly explain why the item is not applicable/relevant for your study

Meine Antwort

1b-iii) Open vs. closed, web-based (self-assessment) vs. face-to-face assessments in the METHODS section of the ABSTRACT

Mention how participants were recruited (online vs. offline), e.g., from an open access website or from a clinic or a closed online user group (closed usergroup trial), and clarify if this was a purely web-based trial, or there were face-to-face components (as part of the intervention or for assessment). Clearly say if outcomes were self-assessed through questionnaires (as common in web-based trials). Note: In traditional offline trials, an open trial (open-label trial) is a type of clinical trial in which both the researchers and participants know which treatment is being administered. To avoid confusion, use “blinded” or “unblinded” to indicated the level of blinding instead of “open”, as “open” in web-based trials usually refers to “open access” (i.e. participants can self-enrol). (Note: Only report in the abstract what the main paper is reporting. If this information is missing from the main body of text, consider adding it)

	1	2	3	4	5	
subitem not at all important	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	essential

Does your paper address subitem 1b-iii?

Copy and paste relevant sections from the manuscript abstract (include quotes in quotation marks "like this" to indicate direct quotes from your manuscript), or elaborate on this item by providing additional information not in the ms, or briefly explain why the item is not applicable/relevant for your study

Meine Antwort

1b-iv) RESULTS section in abstract must contain use data

Report number of participants enrolled/assessed in each group, the use/uptake of the intervention (e.g., attrition/adherence metrics, use over time, number of logins etc.), in addition to primary/secondary outcomes. (Note: Only report in the abstract what the main paper is reporting. If this information is missing from the main body of text, consider adding it)

	1	2	3	4	5	
subitem not at all important	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	essential

Does your paper address subitem 1b-iv?

Copy and paste relevant sections from the manuscript abstract (include quotes in quotation marks "like this" to indicate direct quotes from your manuscript), or elaborate on this item by providing additional information not in the ms, or briefly explain why the item is not applicable/relevant for your study

Meine Antwort

1b-v) CONCLUSIONS/DISCUSSION in abstract for negative trials

Conclusions/Discussions in abstract for negative trials: Discuss the primary outcome - if the trial is negative (primary outcome not changed), and the intervention was not used, discuss whether negative results are attributable to lack of uptake and discuss reasons. (Note: Only report in the abstract what the main paper is reporting. If this information is missing from the main body of text, consider adding it)

	1	2	3	4	5	
subitem not at all important	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	essential

Does your paper address subitem 1b-v?

Copy and paste relevant sections from the manuscript abstract (include quotes in quotation marks "like this" to indicate direct quotes from your manuscript), or elaborate on this item by providing additional information not in the ms, or briefly explain why the item is not applicable/relevant for your study

Meine Antwort

INTRODUCTION

2a) In INTRODUCTION: Scientific background and explanation of rationale

2a-i) Problem and the type of system/solution

Describe the problem and the type of system/solution that is object of the study: intended as stand-alone intervention vs. incorporated in broader health care program? Intended for a particular patient population? Goals of the intervention, e.g., being more cost-effective to other interventions, replace or complement other solutions? (Note: Details about the intervention are provided in "Methods" under 5)

	1	2	3	4	5	
subitem not at all important	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	essential

Does your paper address subitem 2a-i? *

Copy and paste relevant sections from the manuscript (include quotes in quotation marks "like this" to indicate direct quotes from your manuscript), or elaborate on this item by providing additional information not in the ms, or briefly explain why the item is not applicable/relevant for your study

"Given the important role of approach/avoidance biases in depression and the promising findings for SBIs that combine gamified AAMT with face-to-face CBT in other domains, we developed an automated, gamified SBI for depression combining AAMT with CBT (mentalis Phoenix; MT-Phoenix). To provide a scalable and possibly cost-effective intervention, we developed MT-Phoenix as a stand-alone SBI. The aim of this study was to test MT-Phoenix in a Phase II randomized controlled pilot trial to explore the potential effectiveness of this novel intervention in a cohort of individuals with elevated depressive symptoms. We hypothesized MT-Phoenix to produce preliminary evidence for the reduction of depressive symptoms and the improvement of well-being. Treatment effects were expected to be stable at a 3-months follow-up."

2a-ii) Scientific background, rationale: What is known about the (type of) system

Scientific background, rationale: What is known about the (type of) system that is the object of the study (be sure to discuss the use of similar systems for other conditions/diagnoses, if appropriate), motivation for the study, i.e. what are the reasons for and what is the context for this specific study, from which stakeholder viewpoint is the study performed, potential impact of findings [2]. Briefly justify the choice of the comparator.

	1	2	3	4	5	
subitem not at all important	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	essential

Does your paper address subitem 2a-ii? *

Copy and paste relevant sections from the manuscript (include quotes in quotation marks "like this" to indicate direct quotes from your manuscript), or elaborate on this item by providing additional information not in the ms, or briefly explain why the item is not applicable/relevant for your study

"In the past decade, many attempts have been made to utilize the internet to improve access to effective treatments. Because of the dramatic increase of smartphone use in the past years [7], these attempts have recently started to focus on smartphone-based interventions (SBIs) for mental health [8]. This focus can be explained by the advantages of smartphones such as their wide-spread use [9], their resulting potential for dissemination [10], and the constant availability of smartphones that allows for the integration of therapy-relevant components into the patient's daily life [11]."

competencies into the patient's daily life [11].

Available research shows that SBIs utilizing strategies from cognitive-behavioral therapy (CBT) have the potential to effectively reduce depressive symptoms. For example, a study by [12] showed that a SBI offering 6 weeks of self-guided CBT for adults with mild-to-moderate depression led to significant reductions of depressive symptoms when compared to a control condition with access to internet-based psychoeducation for depression ($d=1.03$). Significant effects were also found on measures of behavioral activation and work-related outcomes such as productivity, absence rates, and workplace distress. In another study by [13], participants from a community sample with mild-to-moderate symptoms of depression received 7 weeks of training with a CBT-based self-help SBI. At post-assessment, participants in the intervention group showed significantly greater reductions of depressive symptoms than both an attention control group ($d=0.36$) and a waitlist control condition ($d=0.46$).

However, results for the effectiveness of CBT-based SBIs for depression are inconsistent. For example, a study by [14] compared 4 weeks of treatment with a gamified SBI that targets cognitive control abilities to an SBI based on problem-solving therapy and an information control SBI in a sample of participants with mild-to-moderate symptoms of depression. Although depression symptoms decreased in the total sample, no significant differences were found between the two active SBIs and the information control condition at both 4-week and 12-week follow-up assessment. Moreover, meta-analytic results from a study by [15] suggest that heterogeneous SBIs for depression are moderately effective when compared to inactive controls ($g=0.56$), but that effects are small when compared to active control conditions ($g=0.22$). In the meta-analysis, a subgroup analysis showed that the use of CBT techniques did not influence study effect sizes significantly when compared to SBIs that did not utilize CBT.

Some studies [14,16] have suggested that low adherence rates to SBIs and the lack of engagement features utilized by CBT-based SBIs may be partly responsible for the limited effectiveness of available SBIs. In search for ways to improve patient engagement, [17] and [18] have discussed the use of gamification elements as a particularly promising tool to increase engagement in non-gaming contexts. Gamification refers to the use of game elements and design features such as points, badges, levels, progress, and challenges in non-gaming software [19]. Regarding the use of gamification strategies to increase engagement with online interventions, a systematic review by [20] demonstrated that gamification has the potential to increase engagement parameters such as time spent in a program, number of completed assignments, and total number of views. In depression research, a meta-analysis by [21] that analyzed gamified interventions targeting depression found a moderate effect size for depression therapy at posttreatment ($d=0.47$). Based on these findings, we developed a gamified SBI for depression that combines CBT strategies with the systematic modification of cognitive biases.

Cognitive biases have been shown to play an important role in the onset and maintenance of depression [22]. Thus, the modification of such biases (cognitive bias modification; CBM) has been discussed as a possible method for symptom reduction. For depression, available CBM interventions focus primarily on the modification of attention biases (ABM; [23]) and interpretation biases (CBM-I; [24]). Regarding their effectiveness, a meta-analysis by [25] reported a moderate effect of ABM and CBM-I trainings ($g=0.49$), with stronger effects for CBM-I ($g=0.81$) than for ABM ($g=0.29$). However, results are controversial as they are

challenged by meta-analytic results by [26], suggesting that CBM may only have small effects on clinical depression ($g=0.24$) with this effect decreasing to almost zero ($g=0.04$) after adjusting for publication bias.

In addition to attention and interpretation biases, approach/avoidance biases have recently been shown to play an important role in the development and maintenance of depression, as well. For example, a study by [27] showed that depressed individuals have a stronger avoidance tendency towards angry faces when compared to healthy controls ($d=0.26$). In another study, [28] found reduced approach motivation towards positive pictures in individuals with depressive symptoms when compared to non-depressed controls ($d=0.55$). In trainings aiming at the modification of approach/avoidance biases (approach avoidance modification trainings; AAMTs), participants are asked to approach functional and to avoid dysfunctional disorder-specific stimulus material (pictures and/or statements). Prominent examples for the clinical utilization of computer-based AAMT can be found in the domain of alcohol-dependency. Here, two studies demonstrated that the combination of 3-months of inpatient CBT and computer-based AAMT effectively reduced relapse rate in alcohol-dependent individuals after a 12-months follow-up by 10% [29] to 13% [30] when compared to CBT-only controls. In the domain of depression, a recent study by [31] used computerized AAMT as an add-on to treatment-as-usual. In a sample of clinically depressed individuals, this blended intervention was shown to successfully reduce depressive symptoms when compared to a sham control condition. Another study by [32] included patients with various diagnoses and tested AAMT as an adjunct to inpatient treatment. Here, results show that AAMT reduced depressive symptoms compared to a sham control group. Interestingly, approach tendencies and symptom reductions were moderated by depression severity at baseline, such that only participants with higher initial depressive symptoms benefited from this intervention.

With regard to SBIs facilitating a similar blended approach, pilot studies yielded promising results for the efficacy of gamified SBIs combining AAMT with face-to-face CBT in various psychological domains. In one of these studies by [33], the combination of 14 days of gamified AAMT with a brief face-to-face counseling session led to significant reductions in body dissatisfaction in individuals at-risk for eating disorders when compared to waitlist controls ($d=0.62$). In another study by [34], two brief face-to-face group counseling sessions and 14 days of gamified AAMT significantly reduced procrastination when compared to a waitlist control condition ($d=0.84$). A third study by [35] tested the aforementioned SBI-rationale in the domain of alexithymia and showed the intervention to significantly reduce alexithymia ($d=1.14$) and improve emotion recognition skills ($d=0.97$) when compared to an active control condition.

Given the important role of approach/avoidance biases in depression and the promising findings for SBIs that combine gamified AAMT with face-to-face CBT in other domains, we developed an automated, gamified SBI for depression combining AAMT with CBT (mentalis Phoenix; MT-Phoenix). To provide a scalable and possibly cost-effective intervention, we developed MT-Phoenix as a stand-alone SBI. The aim of this study was to test MT-Phoenix in a Phase II randomized controlled pilot trial to explore the potential effectiveness of this novel intervention in a cohort of individuals with elevated depressive symptoms. We hypothesized MT-Phoenix to produce preliminary evidence for the reduction of depressive symptoms and the improvement of well-being. Treatment effects were expected to be stable at a 3-months follow-up."

2b) In INTRODUCTION: Specific objectives or hypotheses

Does your paper address CONSORT subitem 2b? *

Copy and paste relevant sections from the manuscript (include quotes in quotation marks "like this" to indicate direct quotes from your manuscript), or elaborate on this item by providing additional information not in the ms, or briefly explain why the item is not applicable/relevant for your study

"The aim of this study was to test MT-Phoenix in a Phase II randomized controlled pilot trial to explore the potential effectiveness of this novel intervention in a cohort of individuals with elevated depressive symptoms. We hypothesized MT-Phoenix to produce preliminary evidence for the reduction of depressive symptoms and the improvement of well-being. Treatment effects were expected to be stable at a 3-months follow-up."

METHODS

3a) Description of trial design (such as parallel, factorial) including allocation ratio

Does your paper address CONSORT subitem 3a? *

Copy and paste relevant sections from the manuscript (include quotes in quotation marks "like this" to indicate direct quotes from your manuscript), or elaborate on this item by providing additional information not in the ms, or briefly explain why the item is not applicable/relevant for your study

"Participant recruitment started in May 2017 through announcements in several social media channels and online pin boards. Interested individuals were asked to scan a QR-code or click a link provided in the announcements that led to an online screening questionnaire assessing the following criteria for study inclusion: (a) heightened depression scores with values ≥ 5 on the Patient Health Questionnaire-9 (PHQ-9) [36], (b) sufficient German language skills, (c) age 18 or above, (d) access to a smartphone using iOS (Apple iPhone 5 or above), and (e) informed consent. Eligible individuals were sent written information about study procedures and an informed consent form via email. Participants returning a signed copy of the informed consent form were randomly assigned to either the intervention or a waitlist control condition. We used block randomization with a fixed block size of two to ensure similar sample sizes across conditions. Randomization was conducted by a master's degree student (not otherwise involved in the study) utilizing randomization.org. Participants received an email reminding them to complete both the primary and the secondary outcome measures. Post-treatment assessment was conducted 2 weeks after baseline, follow-up assessment was conducted 12 weeks after post-treatment assessment. The treatment was free of charge. Student participants received course credit for participation and every participant automatically took part in a draw for a shopping gift card. All data were assessed with the help of an online assessment tool and all interactions with participants were online. After baseline completion, participants in the intervention group received an e-mail inviting them to download MT-Phoenix in the AppStore and to train over a 14-days-period. Given the heterogeneity of studies in this emerging field, no standardized recommendations on the use of SBIs have come to the authors' attention. Thus, participants did not receive any recommendations regarding duration or frequency of use of the intervention in this pilot trial. Participants in the waitlist condition had access to the intervention after completing the follow-up assessment. All study procedures complied with the human research guidelines of the Helsinki Protocol and were approved by the ethics committee of the German Psychological Society."

3b) Important changes to methods after trial commencement (such as eligibility criteria), with reasons

Does your paper address CONSORT subitem 3b? *

Copy and paste relevant sections from the manuscript (include quotes in quotation marks "like this" to indicate direct quotes from your manuscript), or elaborate on this item by providing additional information not in the ms, or briefly explain why the item is not applicable/relevant for your study

No, not applicable.

3b-i) Bug fixes, Downtimes, Content Changes

Bug fixes, Downtimes, Content Changes: ehealth systems are often dynamic systems. A description of changes to methods therefore also includes important changes made on the intervention or comparator during the trial (e.g., major bug fixes or changes in the functionality or content) (5-iii) and other "unexpected events" that may have influenced study design such as staff changes, system failures/downtimes, etc. [2].

1 2 3 4 5

subitem not at all important essential

Does your paper address subitem 3b-i?

Copy and paste relevant sections from the manuscript (include quotes in quotation marks "like this" to indicate direct quotes from your manuscript), or elaborate on this item by providing additional information not in the ms, or briefly explain why the item is not applicable/relevant for your study

Meine Antwort

4a) Eligibility criteria for participants

Does your paper address CONSORT subitem 4a? *

Copy and paste relevant sections from the manuscript (include quotes in quotation marks "like this" to indicate direct quotes from your manuscript), or elaborate on this item by providing additional information not in the ms, or briefly explain why the item is not applicable/relevant for your study

"Participant recruitment started in May 2017 through announcements in several social media channels and online pin boards. Interested individuals were asked to scan a QR-code or click a link provided in the announcements that led to an online screening questionnaire assessing the following criteria for study inclusion: (a) heightened depression scores with values ≥ 5 on the Patient Health Questionnaire-9 (PHQ-9) [36], (b) sufficient German language skills, (c) age 18 or above, (d) access to a smartphone using iOS (Apple iPhone 5 or above), and (e) informed consent."

4a-i) Computer / Internet literacy

Computer / Internet literacy is often an implicit "de facto" eligibility criterion - this should be explicitly clarified.

	1	2	3	4	5	
subitem not at all important	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	essential

Does your paper address subitem 4a-i?

Copy and paste relevant sections from the manuscript (include quotes in quotation marks "like this" to indicate direct quotes from your manuscript), or elaborate on this item by providing additional information not in the ms, or briefly explain why the item is not applicable/relevant for your study

Meine Antwort

4a-ii) Open vs. closed, web-based vs. face-to-face assessments:

Open vs. closed, web-based vs. face-to-face assessments: Mention how participants were recruited (online vs. offline), e.g., from an open access website or from a clinic, and clarify if this was a purely web-based trial, or there were face-to-face components (as part of the intervention or for assessment), i.e., to what degree got the study team to know the participant. In online-only trials, clarify if participants were quasi-anonymous and whether having multiple identities was possible or whether technical or logistical measures (e.g., cookies, email confirmation, phone calls) were used to detect/prevent these.

	1	2	3	4	5	
subitem not at all important	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	essential

Does your paper address subitem 4a-ii? *

Copy and paste relevant sections from the manuscript (include quotes in quotation marks "like this" to indicate direct quotes from your manuscript), or elaborate on this item by providing additional information not in the ms, or briefly explain why the item is not applicable/relevant for your study

"Participants received an email reminding them to complete both the primary and the secondary outcome measures. Post-treatment assessment was conducted 2 weeks after baseline, follow-up assessment was conducted 12 weeks after post-treatment assessment. The treatment was free of charge. Student participants received course credit for participation and every participant automatically took part in a draw for a shopping gift card. All data were assessed with the help of an online assessment tool and all interactions with participants were online."

4a-iii) Information giving during recruitment

Information given during recruitment. Specify how participants were briefed for recruitment and in the informed consent procedures (e.g., publish the informed consent documentation as appendix, see also item X26), as this information may have an effect on user self-selection, user expectation and may also bias results.

	1	2	3	4	5	
subitem not at all important	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	essential

Does your paper address subitem 4a-iii?

Copy and paste relevant sections from the manuscript (include quotes in quotation marks "like this" to indicate direct quotes from your manuscript), or elaborate on this item by providing additional information not in the ms, or briefly explain why the item is not applicable/relevant for your study

Meine Antwort

4b) Settings and locations where the data were collected

Does your paper address CONSORT subitem 4b? *

Copy and paste relevant sections from the manuscript (include quotes in quotation marks "like this" to indicate direct quotes from your manuscript), or elaborate on this item by providing additional information not in the ms, or briefly explain why the item is not applicable/relevant for your study

"All data were assessed with the help of an online assessment tool and all interactions with participants were online."

4b-i) Report if outcomes were (self-)assessed through online questionnaires

Clearly report if outcomes were (self-)assessed through online questionnaires (as common in web-based trials) or otherwise.

1 2 3 4 5

subitem not at all important essential

Does your paper address subitem 4b-i? *

Copy and paste relevant sections from the manuscript (include quotes in quotation marks "like this" to indicate direct quotes from your manuscript), or elaborate on this item by providing additional information not in the ms, or briefly explain why the item is not applicable/relevant for your study

"All data were assessed with the help of an online assessment tool and all interactions with participants were online. "

4b-ii) Report how institutional affiliations are displayed

Report how institutional affiliations are displayed to potential participants [on ehealth media], as affiliations with prestigious hospitals or universities may affect volunteer rates, use, and reactions with regards to an intervention. (Not a required item – describe only if this may bias results)

	1	2	3	4	5	
subitem not at all important	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	essential

Does your paper address subitem 4b-ii?

Copy and paste relevant sections from the manuscript (include quotes in quotation marks "like this" to indicate direct quotes from your manuscript), or elaborate on this item by providing additional information not in the ms, or briefly explain why the item is not applicable/relevant for your study

Meine Antwort

5) The interventions for each group with sufficient details to allow replication, including how and when they were actually administered

5-i) Mention names, credential, affiliations of the developers, sponsors, and owners

Mention names, credential, affiliations of the developers, sponsors, and owners [6] (if authors/evaluators are owners or developer of the software, this needs to be declared in a "Conflict of interest" section or mentioned elsewhere in the manuscript).

	1	2	3	4	5	
subitem not at all important	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	essential

Does your paper address subitem 5-i?

Copy and paste relevant sections from the manuscript (include quotes in quotation marks "like this" to indicate direct quotes from your manuscript), or elaborate on this item by providing additional information not in the ms, or briefly explain why the item is not applicable/relevant for your study

Meine Antwort

5-ii) Describe the history/development process

Describe the history/development process of the application and previous formative evaluations (e.g., focus groups, usability testing), as these will have an impact on adoption/use rates and help with interpreting results.

	1	2	3	4	5	
subitem not at all important	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	essential

Does your paper address subitem 5-ii?

Copy and paste relevant sections from the manuscript (include quotes in quotation marks "like this" to indicate direct quotes from your manuscript), or elaborate on this item by providing additional information not in the ms, or briefly explain why the item is not applicable/relevant for your study

Meine Antwort

5-iii) Revisions and updating

Revisions and updating. Clearly mention the date and/or version number of the application/intervention (and comparator, if applicable) evaluated, or describe whether the intervention underwent major changes during the evaluation process, or whether the development and/or content was "frozen" during the trial. Describe dynamic components such as news feeds or changing content which may have an impact on the replicability of the intervention (for unexpected events see item 3b).

	1	2	3	4	5	
subitem not at all important	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	essential

Does your paper address subitem 5-iii?

Copy and paste relevant sections from the manuscript (include quotes in quotation marks "like this" to indicate direct quotes from your manuscript), or elaborate on this item by providing additional information not in the ms, or briefly explain why the item is not applicable/relevant for your study

Meine Antwort

5-iv) Quality assurance methods

Provide information on quality assurance methods to ensure accuracy and quality of information provided [1], if applicable.

	1	2	3	4	5	
subitem not at all important	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	essential

Does your paper address subitem 5-iv?

Copy and paste relevant sections from the manuscript (include quotes in quotation marks "like this" to indicate direct quotes from your manuscript), or elaborate on this item by providing additional information not in the ms, or briefly explain why the item is not applicable/relevant for your study

Meine Antwort

5-v) Ensure replicability by publishing the source code, and/or providing screenshots/screen-capture video, and/or providing flowcharts of the algorithms used

Ensure replicability by publishing the source code, and/or providing screenshots/screen-capture video, and/or providing flowcharts of the algorithms used. Replicability (i.e., other researchers should in principle be able to replicate the study) is a hallmark of scientific reporting.

	1	2	3	4	5	
subitem not at all important	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	essential

Does your paper address subitem 5-v?

Copy and paste relevant sections from the manuscript (include quotes in quotation marks "like this" to indicate direct quotes from your manuscript), or elaborate on this item by providing additional information not in the ms, or briefly explain why the item is not applicable/relevant for your study

Meine Antwort

5-vi) Digital preservation

Digital preservation: Provide the URL of the application, but as the intervention is likely to change or disappear over the course of the years; also make sure the intervention is archived (Internet Archive, webcitation.org, and/or publishing the source code or screenshots/videos alongside the article). As pages behind login screens cannot be archived, consider creating demo pages which are accessible without login.

	1	2	3	4	5	
subitem not at all important	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	essential

Does your paper address subitem 5-vi?

Copy and paste relevant sections from the manuscript (include quotes in quotation marks "like this" to indicate direct quotes from your manuscript), or elaborate on this item by providing additional information not in the ms, or briefly explain why the item is not applicable/relevant for your study

Meine Antwort

5-vii) Access

Access: Describe how participants accessed the application, in what setting/context, if they had to pay (or were paid) or not, whether they had to be a member of specific group. If known, describe how participants obtained "access to the platform and Internet" [1]. To ensure access for editors/reviewers/readers, consider to provide a "backdoor" login account or demo mode for reviewers/readers to explore the application (also important for archiving purposes, see vi).

1 2 3 4 5

subitem not at all important essential

Does your paper address subitem 5-vii? *

Copy and paste relevant sections from the manuscript (include quotes in quotation marks "like this" to indicate direct quotes from your manuscript), or elaborate on this item by providing additional information not in the ms, or briefly explain why the item is not applicable/relevant for your study

"The treatment was free of charge."

"After baseline completion, participants in the intervention group received an e-mail inviting them to download MT-Phoenix in the AppStore and to train over a 14-days-period."

5-viii) Mode of delivery, features/functionalities/components of the intervention and comparator, and the theoretical framework

Describe mode of delivery, features/functionalities/components of the intervention and comparator, and the theoretical framework [6] used to design them (instructional strategy [1], behaviour change techniques, persuasive features, etc., see e.g., [7, 8] for terminology). This includes an in-depth description of the content (including where it is coming from and who developed it) [1], "whether [and how] it is tailored to individual circumstances and allows users to track their progress and receive feedback" [6]. This also includes a description of communication delivery channels and – if computer-mediated communication is a component – whether communication was synchronous or asynchronous [6]. It also includes information on presentation strategies [1], including page design principles, average amount of text on pages, presence of hyperlinks to other resources, etc. [1].

	1	2	3	4	5	
subitem not at all important	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	essential

Does your paper address subitem 5-viii? *

Copy and paste relevant sections from the manuscript (include quotes in quotation marks "like this" to indicate direct quotes from your manuscript), or elaborate on this item by providing additional information not in the ms, or briefly explain why the item is not applicable/relevant for your study

"MT-Phoenix was developed by a graduate psychologist (CAL) and a professor in clinical psychology (MB). MT-Phoenix is a gamified intervention that provides the training of 13 module-based competencies important for managing depressive symptoms. The 13 competencies in MT-Phoenix are "functional thoughts", "positive activities", "daily routines", "experiencing pleasure", "relaxation", "reconnect socially", "self-support", "self-comfort", "problem-solving", "acceptance", "grieving", "gratitude", and "self-care". Gamification is utilized by arranging the modules sequentially, having participants earn points for completion of certain activities, the use of a level system in the AAMT, and the provision of illustrated feedback components."

5-ix) Describe use parameters

Describe use parameters (e.g., intended “doses” and optimal timing for use). Clarify what instructions or recommendations were given to the user, e.g., regarding timing, frequency, heaviness of use, if any, or was the intervention used ad libitum.

	1	2	3	4	5	
subitem not at all important	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	essential

Does your paper address subitem 5-ix?

Copy and paste relevant sections from the manuscript (include quotes in quotation marks "like this" to indicate direct quotes from your manuscript), or elaborate on this item by providing additional information not in the ms, or briefly explain why the item is not applicable/relevant for your study

Meine Antwort

5-x) Clarify the level of human involvement

Clarify the level of human involvement (care providers or health professionals, also technical assistance) in the e-intervention or as co-intervention (detail number and expertise of professionals involved, if any, as well as “type of assistance offered, the timing and frequency of the support, how it is initiated, and the medium by which the assistance is delivered”. It may be necessary to distinguish between the level of human involvement required for the trial, and the level of human involvement required for a routine application outside of a RCT setting (discuss under item 21 – generalizability).

	1	2	3	4	5	
subitem not at all important	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	essential

Does your paper address subitem 5-x?

Copy and paste relevant sections from the manuscript (include quotes in quotation marks "like this" to indicate direct quotes from your manuscript), or elaborate on this item by providing additional information not in the ms, or briefly explain why the item is not applicable/relevant for your study

Meine Antwort

5-xi) Report any prompts/reminders used

Report any prompts/reminders used: Clarify if there were prompts (letters, emails, phone calls, SMS) to use the application, what triggered them, frequency etc. It may be necessary to distinguish between the level of prompts/reminders required for the trial, and the level of prompts/reminders for a routine application outside of a RCT setting (discuss under item 21 – generalizability).

1 2 3 4 5

subitem not at all important essential

Does your paper address subitem 5-xi? *

Copy and paste relevant sections from the manuscript (include quotes in quotation marks "like this" to indicate direct quotes from your manuscript), or elaborate on this item by providing additional information not in the ms, or briefly explain why the item is not applicable/relevant for your study

No prompts used.

5-xii) Describe any co-interventions (incl. training/support)

Describe any co-interventions (incl. training/support): Clearly state any interventions that are provided in addition to the targeted eHealth intervention, as ehealth intervention may not be designed as stand-alone intervention. This includes training sessions and support [1]. It may be necessary to distinguish between the level of training required for the trial, and the level of training for a routine application outside of a RCT setting (discuss under item 21 – generalizability).

1 2 3 4 5

subitem not at all important essential

Does your paper address subitem 5-xii? *

Copy and paste relevant sections from the manuscript (include quotes in quotation marks "like this" to indicate direct quotes from your manuscript), or elaborate on this item by providing additional information not in the ms, or briefly explain why the item is not applicable/relevant for your study

No co-intervention(s).

6a) Completely defined pre-specified primary and secondary outcome measures, including how and when they were assessed

Does your paper address CONSORT subitem 6a? *

Copy and paste relevant sections from the manuscript (include quotes in quotation marks "like this" to indicate direct quotes from your manuscript), or elaborate on this item by providing additional information not in the ms, or briefly explain why the item is not applicable/relevant for your study

All outcomes were assessed online at baseline, post- and follow-up assessment.

Primary outcome:

"Depressive symptoms were assessed using the PHQ-9. The PHQ-9 is a 9-item self-report questionnaire that evaluates the presence of depressive symptoms during the last 14 days based on the DSM-IV diagnostic criteria for major depression."

Secondary outcomes:

"Presence of emotional, motivational, cognitive, somatic, and interactional aspects of depression during the last seven days were assessed with the German 20-item version of the Center of Epidemiological Studies Depression Scale (Allgemeine Depressions Skala, ADS)."

"Well-being was assessed using the 5-item World Health Organization Well-being Index (WHO-5)."

6a-i) Online questionnaires: describe if they were validated for online use and apply CHERRIES items to describe how the questionnaires were designed/deployed

If outcomes were obtained through online questionnaires, describe if they were validated for online use and apply CHERRIES items to describe how the questionnaires were designed/deployed [9].

	1	2	3	4	5	
subitem not at all important	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	essential

Does your paper address subitem 6a-i?

Copy and paste relevant sections from manuscript text

Meine Antwort

6a-ii) Describe whether and how “use” (including intensity of use/dosage) was defined/measured/monitored

Describe whether and how “use” (including intensity of use/dosage) was defined/measured/monitored (logins, logfile analysis, etc.). Use/adoption metrics are important process outcomes that should be reported in any ehealth trial.

	1	2	3	4	5	
subitem not at all important	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	essential

Does your paper address subitem 6a-ii?

Copy and paste relevant sections from manuscript text

Meine Antwort

6a-iii) Describe whether, how, and when qualitative feedback from participants was obtained

Describe whether, how, and when qualitative feedback from participants was obtained (e.g., through emails, feedback forms, interviews, focus groups).

	1	2	3	4	5	
subitem not at all important	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	essential

Does your paper address subitem 6a-iii?

Copy and paste relevant sections from manuscript text

Meine Antwort

6b) Any changes to trial outcomes after the trial commenced, with reasons**Does your paper address CONSORT subitem 6b? ***

Copy and paste relevant sections from the manuscript (include quotes in quotation marks "like this" to indicate direct quotes from your manuscript), or elaborate on this item by providing additional information not in the ms, or briefly explain why the item is not applicable/relevant for your study

Not applicable.

7a) How sample size was determined

NPT: When applicable, details of whether and how the clustering by care provides or centers was addressed

7a-i) Describe whether and how expected attrition was taken into account when calculating the sample size

Describe whether and how expected attrition was taken into account when calculating the sample size.

	1	2	3	4	5	
subitem not at all important	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	essential

Does your paper address subitem 7a-i?

Copy and paste relevant sections from manuscript title (include quotes in quotation marks "like this" to indicate direct quotes from your manuscript), or elaborate on this item by providing additional information not in the ms, or briefly explain why the item is not applicable/relevant for your study

Meine Antwort

7b) When applicable, explanation of any interim analyses and stopping guidelines

Does your paper address CONSORT subitem 7b? *

Copy and paste relevant sections from the manuscript (include quotes in quotation marks "like this" to indicate direct quotes from your manuscript), or elaborate on this item by providing additional information not in the ms, or briefly explain why the item is not applicable/relevant for your study

Not applicable.

8a) Method used to generate the random allocation sequence

NPT: When applicable, how care providers were allocated to each trial group

Does your paper address CONSORT subitem 8a? *

Copy and paste relevant sections from the manuscript (include quotes in quotation marks "like this" to indicate direct quotes from your manuscript), or elaborate on this item by providing additional information not in the ms, or briefly explain why the item is not applicable/relevant for your study

"We used block randomization with a fixed block size of two to ensure similar sample sizes across conditions. Randomization was conducted by a master's degree student (not otherwise involved in the study) utilizing randomization.org."

8b) Type of randomisation; details of any restriction (such as blocking and block size)

Does your paper address CONSORT subitem 8b? *

Copy and paste relevant sections from the manuscript (include quotes in quotation marks "like this" to indicate direct quotes from your manuscript), or elaborate on this item by providing additional information not in the ms, or briefly explain why the item is not applicable/relevant for your study

"We used block randomization with a fixed block size of two to ensure similar sample sizes across conditions. Randomization was conducted by a master's degree student (not otherwise involved in the study) utilizing randomization.org."

9) Mechanism used to implement the random allocation sequence (such as sequentially numbered containers), describing any steps taken to conceal the sequence until interventions were assigned

Does your paper address CONSORT subitem 9? *

Copy and paste relevant sections from the manuscript (include quotes in quotation marks "like this" to indicate direct quotes from your manuscript), or elaborate on this item by providing additional information not in the ms, or briefly explain why the item is not applicable/relevant for your study

"We used block randomization with a fixed block size of two to ensure similar sample sizes across conditions. Randomization was conducted by a master's degree student (not otherwise involved in the study) utilizing randomization.org."

10) Who generated the random allocation sequence, who enrolled participants, and who assigned participants to interventions

Does your paper address CONSORT subitem 10? *

Copy and paste relevant sections from the manuscript (include quotes in quotation marks "like this" to indicate direct quotes from your manuscript), or elaborate on this item by providing additional information not in the ms, or briefly explain why the item is not applicable/relevant for your study

"We used block randomization with a fixed block size of two to ensure similar sample sizes across conditions. Randomization was conducted by a master's degree student (not otherwise involved in the study) utilizing randomization.org."

11a) If done, who was blinded after assignment to interventions (for example, participants, care providers, those assessing outcomes) and how

NPT: Whether or not administering co-interventions were blinded to group assignment

11a-i) Specify who was blinded, and who wasn't

Specify who was blinded, and who wasn't. Usually, in web-based trials it is not possible to blind the participants [1, 3] (this should be clearly acknowledged), but it may be possible to blind outcome assessors, those doing data analysis or those administering co-interventions (if any).

subitem not at all important 1 2 3 4 5 essential

Does your paper address subitem 11a-i? *

Copy and paste relevant sections from the manuscript (include quotes in quotation marks "like this" to indicate direct quotes from your manuscript), or elaborate on this item by providing additional information not in the ms, or briefly explain why the item is not applicable/relevant for your study

Not applicable.

11a-ii) Discuss e.g., whether participants knew which intervention was the “intervention of interest” and which one was the “comparator”

Informed consent procedures (4a-ii) can create biases and certain expectations - discuss e.g., whether participants knew which intervention was the “intervention of interest” and which one was the “comparator”.

	1	2	3	4	5	
subitem not at all important	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	essential

Does your paper address subitem 11a-ii?

Copy and paste relevant sections from the manuscript (include quotes in quotation marks "like this" to indicate direct quotes from your manuscript), or elaborate on this item by providing additional information not in the ms, or briefly explain why the item is not applicable/relevant for your study

Meine Antwort

11b) If relevant, description of the similarity of interventions

(this item is usually not relevant for ehealth trials as it refers to similarity of a placebo or sham intervention to a active medication/intervention)

Does your paper address CONSORT subitem 11b? *

Copy and paste relevant sections from the manuscript (include quotes in quotation marks "like this" to indicate direct quotes from your manuscript), or elaborate on this item by providing additional information not in the ms, or briefly explain why the item is not applicable/relevant for your study

Not applicable.

12a) Statistical methods used to compare groups for primary and secondary outcomes

NPT: When applicable, details of whether and how the clustering by care providers or centers was addressed

Does your paper address CONSORT subitem 12a? *

Copy and paste relevant sections from the manuscript (include quotes in quotation marks "like this" to indicate direct quotes from your manuscript), or elaborate on this item by providing additional information not in the ms, or briefly explain why the item is not applicable/relevant for your study

"We conducted analyses of covariance (ANCOVAs) on post and follow-up scores to evaluate possible intervention effects and included baseline values as covariates to control for a potentially confounding influence of these scores."

12a-i) Imputation techniques to deal with attrition / missing values

Imputation techniques to deal with attrition / missing values: Not all participants will use the intervention/comparator as intended and attrition is typically high in ehealth trials. Specify how participants who did not use the application or dropped out from the trial were treated in the statistical analysis (a complete case analysis is strongly discouraged, and simple imputation techniques such as LOCF may also be problematic [4]).

subitem not at all important 1 2 3 4 5 essential

Does your paper address subitem 12a-i? *

Copy and paste relevant sections from the manuscript (include quotes in quotation marks "like this" to indicate direct quotes from your manuscript), or elaborate on this item by providing additional information not in the ms, or briefly explain why the item is not applicable/relevant for your study

"Missing data were imputed with the help of Markov Chain Monte Carlo multivariate imputation algorithm with ten estimations per missing value."

12b) Methods for additional analyses, such as subgroup analyses and adjusted analyses

Does your paper address CONSORT subitem 12b? *

Copy and paste relevant sections from the manuscript (include quotes in quotation marks "like this" to indicate direct quotes from your manuscript), or elaborate on this item by providing additional information not in the ms, or briefly explain why the item is not applicable/relevant for your study

Not applicable.

X26) REB/IRB Approval and Ethical Considerations [recommended as subheading under "Methods"] (not a CONSORT item)

X26-i) Comment on ethics committee approval

	1	2	3	4	5	
subitem not at all important	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	essential

Does your paper address subitem X26-i?

Copy and paste relevant sections from the manuscript (include quotes in quotation marks "like this" to indicate direct quotes from your manuscript), or elaborate on this item by providing additional information not in the ms, or briefly explain why the item is not applicable/relevant for your study

Meine Antwort

x26-ii) Outline informed consent procedures

Outline informed consent procedures e.g., if consent was obtained offline or online (how? Checkbox, etc.), and what information was provided (see 4a-ii). See [6] for some items to be included in informed consent documents.

	1	2	3	4	5	
subitem not at all important	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	essential

Does your paper address subitem X26-ii?

Copy and paste relevant sections from the manuscript (include quotes in quotation marks "like this" to indicate direct quotes from your manuscript), or elaborate on this item by providing additional information not in the ms, or briefly explain why the item is not applicable/relevant for your study

Meine Antwort

X26-iii) Safety and security procedures

Safety and security procedures, incl. privacy considerations, and any steps taken to reduce the likelihood or detection of harm (e.g., education and training, availability of a hotline)

	1	2	3	4	5	
subitem not at all important	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	essential

Does your paper address subitem X26-iii?

Copy and paste relevant sections from the manuscript (include quotes in quotation marks "like this" to indicate direct quotes from your manuscript), or elaborate on this item by providing additional information not in the ms, or briefly explain why the item is not applicable/relevant for your study

Meine Antwort

RESULTS

13a) For each group, the numbers of participants who were randomly assigned, received intended treatment, and were analysed for the primary outcome

NPT: The number of care providers or centers performing the intervention in each group and the number of patients treated by each care provider in each center

Does your paper address CONSORT subitem 13a? *

Copy and paste relevant sections from the manuscript (include quotes in quotation marks "like this" to indicate direct quotes from your manuscript), or elaborate on this item by providing additional information not in the ms, or briefly explain why the item is not applicable/relevant for your study

Intervention group: 40

Control group: 37

13b) For each group, losses and exclusions after randomisation, together with reasons

Does your paper address CONSORT subitem 13b? (NOTE: Preferably, this is shown in a CONSORT flow diagram) *

Copy and paste relevant sections from the manuscript (include quotes in quotation marks "like this" to indicate direct quotes from your manuscript), or elaborate on this item by providing additional information not in the ms, or briefly explain why the item is not applicable/relevant for your study

Yes, see CONSORT flow diagram in the manuscript.

13b-i) Attrition diagram

Strongly recommended: An attrition diagram (e.g., proportion of participants still logging in or using the intervention/comparator in each group plotted over time, similar to a survival curve) or other figures or tables demonstrating usage/dose/engagement.

	1	2	3	4	5	
subitem not at all important	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	essential

Does your paper address subitem 13b-i?

Copy and paste relevant sections from the manuscript or cite the figure number if applicable (include quotes in quotation marks "like this" to indicate direct quotes from your manuscript), or elaborate on this item by providing additional information not in the ms, or briefly explain why the item is not applicable/relevant for your study

Meine Antwort

14a) Dates defining the periods of recruitment and follow-up

Does your paper address CONSORT subitem 14a? *

Copy and paste relevant sections from the manuscript (include quotes in quotation marks "like this" to indicate direct quotes from your manuscript), or elaborate on this item by providing additional information not in the ms, or briefly explain why the item is not applicable/relevant for your study

Yes.

14a-i) Indicate if critical “secular events” fell into the study period

Indicate if critical “secular events” fell into the study period, e.g., significant changes in Internet resources available or “changes in computer hardware or Internet delivery resources”

	1	2	3	4	5	
subitem not at all important	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	essential

Does your paper address subitem 14a-i?

Copy and paste relevant sections from the manuscript (include quotes in quotation marks "like this" to indicate direct quotes from your manuscript), or elaborate on this item by providing additional information not in the ms, or briefly explain why the item is not applicable/relevant for your study

Meine Antwort

14b) Why the trial ended or was stopped (early)**Does your paper address CONSORT subitem 14b? ***

Copy and paste relevant sections from the manuscript (include quotes in quotation marks "like this" to indicate direct quotes from your manuscript), or elaborate on this item by providing additional information not in the ms, or briefly explain why the item is not applicable/relevant for your study

Not applicable.

15) A table showing baseline demographic and clinical characteristics for each group

NPT: When applicable, a description of care providers (case volume, qualification, expertise, etc.) and centers (volume) in each group

Does your paper address CONSORT subitem 15? *

Copy and paste relevant sections from the manuscript (include quotes in quotation marks "like this" to indicate direct quotes from your manuscript), or elaborate on this item by providing additional information not in the ms, or briefly explain why the item is not applicable/relevant for your study

Table in the manuscript.

15-i) Report demographics associated with digital divide issues

In ehealth trials it is particularly important to report demographics associated with digital divide issues, such as age, education, gender, social-economic status, computer/Internet/ehealth literacy of the participants, if known.

	1	2	3	4	5	
subitem not at all important	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	essential

Does your paper address subitem 15-i? *

Copy and paste relevant sections from the manuscript (include quotes in quotation marks "like this" to indicate direct quotes from your manuscript), or elaborate on this item by providing additional information not in the ms, or briefly explain why the item is not applicable/relevant for your study

Demographics reported in the manuscript.

16) For each group, number of participants (denominator) included in each analysis and whether the analysis was by original assigned groups

16-i) Report multiple “denominators” and provide definitions

Report multiple “denominators” and provide definitions: Report N’s (and effect sizes) “across a range of study participation [and use] thresholds” [1], e.g., N exposed, N consented, N used more than x times, N used more than y weeks, N participants “used” the intervention/comparator at specific pre-defined time points of interest (in absolute and relative numbers per group). Always clearly define “use” of the intervention.

	1	2	3	4	5	
subitem not at all important	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	essential

Does your paper address subitem 16-i? *

Copy and paste relevant sections from the manuscript (include quotes in quotation marks "like this" to indicate direct quotes from your manuscript), or elaborate on this item by providing additional information not in the ms, or briefly explain why the item is not applicable/relevant for your study

Not applicable.

16-ii) Primary analysis should be intent-to-treat

Primary analysis should be intent-to-treat, secondary analyses could include comparing only “users”, with the appropriate caveats that this is no longer a randomized sample (see 18-i).

	1	2	3	4	5	
subitem not at all important	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	essential

Does your paper address subitem 16-ii?

Copy and paste relevant sections from the manuscript (include quotes in quotation marks "like this" to indicate direct quotes from your manuscript), or elaborate on this item by providing additional information not in the ms, or briefly explain why the item is not applicable/relevant for your study

Meine Antwort

17a) For each primary and secondary outcome, results for each group, and the estimated effect size and its precision (such as 95% confidence interval)

Does your paper address CONSORT subitem 17a? *

Copy and paste relevant sections from the manuscript (include quotes in quotation marks "like this" to indicate direct quotes from your manuscript), or elaborate on this item by providing additional information not in the ms, or briefly explain why the item is not applicable/relevant for your study

ANCOVA results and P-values reported in the manuscript.

17a-i) Presentation of process outcomes such as metrics of use and intensity of use

In addition to primary/secondary (clinical) outcomes, the presentation of process outcomes such as metrics of use and intensity of use (dose, exposure) and their operational definitions is critical. This does not only refer to metrics of attrition (13-b) (often a binary variable), but also to more continuous exposure metrics such as "average session length". These must be accompanied by a technical description how a metric like a "session" is defined (e.g., timeout after idle time) [1] (report under item 6a).

subitem not at all important 1 2 3 4 5 essential

Does your paper address subitem 17a-i?

Copy and paste relevant sections from the manuscript (include quotes in quotation marks "like this" to indicate direct quotes from your manuscript), or elaborate on this item by providing additional information not in the ms, or briefly explain why the item is not applicable/relevant for your study

Meine Antwort

17b) For binary outcomes, presentation of both absolute and relative effect sizes is recommended

Does your paper address CONSORT subitem 17b? *

Copy and paste relevant sections from the manuscript (include quotes in quotation marks "like this" to indicate direct quotes from your manuscript), or elaborate on this item by providing additional information not in the ms, or briefly explain why the item is not applicable/relevant for your study

Not applicable.

18) Results of any other analyses performed, including subgroup analyses and adjusted analyses, distinguishing pre-specified from exploratory**Does your paper address CONSORT subitem 18? ***

Copy and paste relevant sections from the manuscript (include quotes in quotation marks "like this" to indicate direct quotes from your manuscript), or elaborate on this item by providing additional information not in the ms, or briefly explain why the item is not applicable/relevant for your study

Not applicable.

18-i) Subgroup analysis of comparing only users

A subgroup analysis of comparing only users is not uncommon in ehealth trials, but if done, it must be stressed that this is a self-selected sample and no longer an unbiased sample from a randomized trial (see 16-iii).

	1	2	3	4	5	
subitem not at all important	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	essential

Does your paper address subitem 18-i?

Copy and paste relevant sections from the manuscript (include quotes in quotation marks "like this" to indicate direct quotes from your manuscript), or elaborate on this item by providing additional information not in the ms, or briefly explain why the item is not applicable/relevant for your study

Meine Antwort

19) All important harms or unintended effects in each group

(for specific guidance see CONSORT for harms)

Does your paper address CONSORT subitem 19? *

Copy and paste relevant sections from the manuscript (include quotes in quotation marks "like this" to indicate direct quotes from your manuscript), or elaborate on this item by providing additional information not in the ms, or briefly explain why the item is not applicable/relevant for your study

Not applicable.

19-i) Include privacy breaches, technical problems

Include privacy breaches, technical problems. This does not only include physical "harm" to participants, but also incidents such as perceived or real privacy breaches [1], technical problems, and other unexpected/unintended incidents. "Unintended effects" also includes unintended positive effects [2].

	1	2	3	4	5	
subitem not at all important	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	essential

Does your paper address subitem 19-i?

Copy and paste relevant sections from the manuscript (include quotes in quotation marks "like this" to indicate direct quotes from your manuscript), or elaborate on this item by providing additional information not in the ms, or briefly explain why the item is not applicable/relevant for your study

Meine Antwort

19-ii) Include qualitative feedback from participants or observations from staff/researchers

Include qualitative feedback from participants or observations from staff/researchers, if available, on strengths and shortcomings of the application, especially if they point to unintended/unexpected effects or uses. This includes (if available) reasons for why people did or did not use the application as intended by the developers.

1 2 3 4 5

subitem not at all important essential

Does your paper address subitem 19-ii?

Copy and paste relevant sections from the manuscript (include quotes in quotation marks "like this" to indicate direct quotes from your manuscript), or elaborate on this item by providing additional information not in the ms, or briefly explain why the item is not applicable/relevant for your study

Meine Antwort

DISCUSSION

22) Interpretation consistent with results, balancing benefits and harms, and considering other relevant evidence

NPT: In addition, take into account the choice of the comparator, lack of or partial blinding, and unequal expertise of care providers or centers in each group

22-i) Restate study questions and summarize the answers suggested by the data, starting with primary outcomes and process outcomes (use)

Restate study questions and summarize the answers suggested by the data, starting with primary outcomes and process outcomes (use).

	1	2	3	4	5	
subitem not at all important	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	essential

Does your paper address subitem 22-i? *

Copy and paste relevant sections from the manuscript (include quotes in quotation marks "like this" to indicate direct quotes from your manuscript), or elaborate on this item by providing additional information not in the ms, or briefly explain why the item is not applicable/relevant for your study

"This Phase II pilot trial evaluated the preliminary effectiveness of a stand-alone gamified SBI combining AAMT and CBT principles in a sample of adults with elevated depression scores. Study results indicate a greater reduction of depressive symptom severity over the course of the intervention in the intervention group when compared to waitlist controls at post-treatment. Follow-up analyses indicate that effects were maintained over a period of 3-months after the completion of the intervention. In addition, the intervention group exhibited a significant increase in well-being at post-assessment when compared to the control condition. These effects were also sustained through follow-up."

22-ii) Highlight unanswered new questions, suggest future research

Highlight unanswered new questions, suggest future research.

	1	2	3	4	5	
subitem not at all important	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	essential

Does your paper address subitem 22-ii?

Copy and paste relevant sections from the manuscript (include quotes in quotation marks "like this" to indicate direct quotes from your manuscript), or elaborate on this item by providing additional information not in the ms, or briefly explain why the item is not applicable/relevant for your study

Meine Antwort

20) Trial limitations, addressing sources of potential bias, imprecision, and, if relevant, multiplicity of analyses

20-i) Typical limitations in ehealth trials

Typical limitations in ehealth trials: Participants in ehealth trials are rarely blinded. Ehealth trials often look at a multiplicity of outcomes, increasing risk for a Type I error. Discuss biases due to non-use of the intervention/usability issues, biases through informed consent procedures, unexpected events.

	1	2	3	4	5	
subitem not at all important	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	essential

Does your paper address subitem 20-i? *

Copy and paste relevant sections from the manuscript (include quotes in quotation marks "like this" to indicate direct quotes from your manuscript), or elaborate on this item by providing additional information not in the ms, or briefly explain why the item is not applicable/relevant for your study

"Regardless of its merits, results from this study are subject to several limitations that need closer consideration. First, although similar interventions have been positively evaluated in pilot studies on body dissatisfaction [33], procrastination [34], and alexithymia [35], findings from this study provide preliminary evidence only for the particular program under investigation and, thus, cannot be easily generalized to other interventions combining AAMT and CBT. Hence, future studies should replicate these findings in other disorders or psychological problems. Second, as 30% of all participants received psychotherapy while participating in this study, results may have been influenced by factors other than the intervention under investigation. Further studies are needed to examine whether MT-Phoenix may be more appropriate as an adjunct to treatment-as-usual instead of a stand-alone intervention. Third, generalization of study results is limited as the SBI was made accessible

For Apple iPhone owners exclusively, the statistical power was low due to the rather small sample size, and the homogeneous sample with regard to several sociodemographic variables. Thus, future studies should make MT-Phoenix available for other operating systems, as well, and should further examine the intervention in larger and more diverse samples. Fourth, inclusion of participants was performed on the basis of heightened depression scores rather than on the basis of a systematic diagnosis (e.g., by using the Structured Clinical Interview for DSM-IV – Axis I disorders) [44]. We included participants who reported PHQ-9 depression scores ≥ 5 to ensure testing of the intervention in individuals with a range of symptom severity and to allow for comparison between studies on SBIs for depression that have focused predominately on participants with mild and moderate depressive symptoms. However, as we did not include an upper cut-off for study inclusion, participants with severe depressive symptoms were also included in the study. This may be represented by the fact that 30% of the study sample reported to be in therapeutic treatment, thus hinting at the inclusion of patients with a diagnosed depression. Future studies should try to replicate the findings in samples of patients that are more distinct with regard to depressive symptom severity. To this end, we are planning a large clinical study that compares a gamified version of MT-Phoenix with a non-gamified version in patients with a major depressive disorder diagnosis after release from treatment in a psychiatric hospital. Fifth, although the majority of participants in the treatment condition achieved clinically significant improvement, the intervention should be further improved to ensure positive outcomes for an even larger number of individuals. Sixth, future studies should attempt to further improve both study and intervention adherence. To this end, qualitative analyses of user data may be helpful to systematically identify and improve flaws in both technology and content of the 1.1 version of the intervention used in this study. Seventh, the use of a non-active waitlist control group may have led to an overestimation of treatment effects as waitlist designs have been discussed as possible nocebo conditions in the literature [45]. Despite the acknowledged limitations of research designs using non-active control conditions, we decided to use an economic waitlist design in this pilot trial. Eighth, the high dropout rate before initiation of the intervention in the intervention group (33%) is another factor that has to be regarded with caution when interpreting the results of this study, especially in terms of the use of an intention-to-treat approach. Although uptake of automated online-based interventions with no personal contact between participants and study personnel is commonly observed as low in the literature [46], allocation to the control-group and older age usually predict low uptake rates. Further observations are needed to identify possible reasons for this phenomenon that expand beyond the aforementioned. Ninth, this pilot trial did not include an a-priori power analysis to determine the sample size necessary for meaningful comparisons between treatment arms. Finally, despite the important role of approach/avoidance biases in depression, the current design prohibits from assigning intervention effects to the AAMT. Further dismantling or comparison studies are needed to ascribe intervention effects to distinct techniques used in MT-Phoenix. Another possible solution to this issue is to systematically measure approach and avoidance tendencies both pre- and post-training."

21) Generalisability (external validity, applicability) of the trial findings

NPT: External validity of the trial findings according to the intervention, comparators, patients, and care providers or centers involved in the trial

21-i) Generalizability to other populations

Generalizability to other populations: In particular, discuss generalizability to a general Internet population, outside of a RCT setting, and general patient population, including applicability of the study results for other organizations

	1	2	3	4	5	
subitem not at all important	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	essential

Does your paper address subitem 21-i?

Copy and paste relevant sections from the manuscript (include quotes in quotation marks "like this" to indicate direct quotes from your manuscript), or elaborate on this item by providing additional information not in the ms, or briefly explain why the item is not applicable/relevant for your study

Meine Antwort

21-ii) Discuss if there were elements in the RCT that would be different in a routine application setting

Discuss if there were elements in the RCT that would be different in a routine application setting (e.g., prompts/reminders, more human involvement, training sessions or other co-interventions) and what impact the omission of these elements could have on use, adoption, or outcomes if the intervention is applied outside of a RCT setting.

	1	2	3	4	5	
subitem not at all important	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	essential

Does your paper address subitem 21-ii?

Copy and paste relevant sections from the manuscript (include quotes in quotation marks "like this" to indicate direct quotes from your manuscript), or elaborate on this item by providing additional information not in the ms, or briefly explain why the item is not applicable/relevant for your study

Meine Antwort

OTHER INFORMATION

23) Registration number and name of trial registry

Does your paper address CONSORT subitem 23? *

Copy and paste relevant sections from the manuscript (include quotes in quotation marks "like this" to indicate direct quotes from your manuscript), or elaborate on this item by providing additional information not in the ms, or briefly explain why the item is not applicable/relevant for your study

"The trial was registered at the German Clinical Trial Registry (DRKS00012769)."

24) Where the full trial protocol can be accessed, if available

Does your paper address CONSORT subitem 24? *

Cite a Multimedia Appendix, other reference, or copy and paste relevant sections from the manuscript (include quotes in quotation marks "like this" to indicate direct quotes from your manuscript), or elaborate on this item by providing additional information not in the ms, or briefly explain why the item is not applicable/relevant for your study

Not applicable.

25) Sources of funding and other support (such as supply of drugs), role of funders

Does your paper address CONSORT subitem 25? *

Copy and paste relevant sections from the manuscript (include quotes in quotation marks "like this" to indicate direct quotes from your manuscript), or elaborate on this item by providing additional information not in the ms, or briefly explain why the item is not applicable/relevant for your study

"This research did not receive any specific grant from funding agencies in the public, commercial, or not-for-profit sectors."

X27) Conflicts of Interest (not a CONSORT item)

X27-i) State the relation of the study team towards the system being evaluated

In addition to the usual declaration of interests (financial or otherwise), also state the relation of the study team towards the system being evaluated, i.e., state if the authors/evaluators are distinct from or identical with the developers/sponsors of the intervention.

subitem not at all important 1 2 3 4 5 essential

Does your paper address subitem X27-i?

Copy and paste relevant sections from the manuscript (include quotes in quotation marks "like this" to indicate direct quotes from your manuscript), or elaborate on this item by providing additional information not in the ms, or briefly explain why the item is not applicable/relevant for your study

Meine Antwort

About the CONSORT EHEALTH checklist

As a result of using this checklist, did you make changes in your manuscript? *

- yes, major changes
- yes, minor changes
- no

What were the most important changes you made as a result of using this checklist?

Meine Antwort

How much time did you spend on going through the checklist INCLUDING making changes in your manuscript *

2 hours

As a result of using this checklist, do you think your manuscript has improved? *

- yes
- no
- Sonstiges:

Would you like to become involved in the CONSORT EHEALTH group?

This would involve for example becoming involved in participating in a workshop and writing an "Explanation and Elaboration" document

yes

no

Sonstiges: _____

Any other comments or questions on CONSORT EHEALTH

Meine Antwort _____

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