***Supplementary Material***

**Results**

*Adapted symptom scores*. To test for the influence of the methodological approach of group forming on symptom scores and further results, we calculated adapted versions of CAPS-CA, UCLA-PTSD-RI and BSL-23 sum scores without the items used for the estimation of CPTSD diagnosis. We analyzed group differences, treatment effects and treatment response using the adapted scores.

Table R1 shows adapted BSL-23 means for CPTSD and non-CPTSD groups before treatment and comparison of groups. Table R2 presents adapted CAPS-CA symptom severity scores and UCLA-PTSD-RI sum scores and effect sizes of group differences at all assessment points. Table R3 presents multilevel analysis using the adapted CAPS-CA and UCLA-PTSD-RI scores. Treatment response rates remained the same compared to symptom scores including all items (CPTSD, t0 to t1: 47.4%, t0 to t4: 47.4%; non-CPTSD, t0 to t1: 52.0%, t0 to t4: 56.0%).

Analyses with the adapted symptom scores yielded comparable results to the symptom scores including all items.

**TABLE R1**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Characteristic** | **Total sample *N*=44** | **CPTSD group *n*=19** | **non-CPTSD group *n*=25** | **Test statistic** |
| Borderline symptom score (BSL-23), *M (SD)* | 34.14 (20.05) | 44.47 (19.42) | 26.28 (16.98) | *t(*42)=3.31, *p*=.002 |

*Adapted borderline symptom scores (BSL-23) for total sample, CPTSD and non-CPTSD groups with comparison of CPTSD and non-CPTSD groups*

*Abbreviation*: BSL-23: Borderline Symptom List-23

**TABLE R2**

*Adapted symptom scores of PTSS for the total sample, CPTSD and non-CPTSD groups before (t0), after treatment (t1) and three months (t2), six months (t3) and 12 months (t4) after treatment with effect sizse of differences between CPTSD and non-CPTSD groups*

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | Total sample (*N*=44) | CPTSD group (*n*=19) | Non-CPTSD group (*n*=25) | Effect size,Hedges *g* |
|  |  | *n* | *M (SD)* | *n* | *M (SD)* | *n* | *M (SD)* |
| CAPS-CA interviewer-rated PTSS | t0 | 44 | 31.64 (11.22) | 19 | 35.37 (10.01) | 25 | 28.80 (11.45) | 0.42 |
| t1 | 29 | 12.14 (10.51) | 12 | 17.25 (12.21) | 17 | 8.53 (7.57) | 0.89 |
| t2 | 29 | 12.72 (13.14) | 13 | 17.15 (15.18) | 16 | 9.13 (8.34) | 0.68 |
| t3 | 28 | 13.14 (14.39) | 13 | 19.15 (17.97) | 15 | 7.93 (7.63) | 0.84 |
| t4 | 22 | 11.09 (10.76) | 10 | 15.00 (13.22) | 12 | 7.83 (7.23) | 0.69 |
| UCLA-PTSD-RI self-reported PTSS | t0 | 44 | 28.78 (10.12) | 19 | 44.84 (7.45) | 25 | 34.20 (9.53) | 1.22 |
| t1 | 27 | 17.00 (13.37) | 12 | 25.00 (14.24) | 15 | 10.60 (8.61) | 1.26 |
| t2 | 25 | 15.16 (14.14) | 12 | 22.00 (16.18) | 13 | 8.85 (8.36) | 1.03 |
| t3 | 26 | 17.19 (16.58) | 13 | 23.15 (20.04) | 13 | 11.23 (9.70) | 0.76 |
| t4 | 21 | 13.76 (13.86) | 10 | 17.70 (17.98) | 11 | 10.18 (7.99) | 0.55 |

*Abbreviations:* CAPS-CA: Clinician-Administered PTSD Scale for Children and Adolescents;CPTSD: Complex PTSD; ICD-11: International Classification of Diseases-11; PTSS: Posttraumatic stress symptoms, UCLA-PTSD-RI: University of California at Los Angeles PTSD Reaction Index

**TABLE R3**

*Multilevel analysis of the influence of covarying level 2 variable diagnosis groups (CPTSD, non-CPTSD) on change over time (in weeks): fixed effects*

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | β | SE | *df* | *F* |
| CAPS-CA | Time | -0.28 | 0.04 | 30.72 | 46.01\*\* |
| group (CPTSD/non-CPTSD) | 6.99 | 3.28 | 48.46 | 4.55\* |
| group x time interaction | 0.08 | 0.06 | 27.62 | 1.75 |
| UCLA-PTSD-RI | Time | -0.31 | 0.06 | 28.75 | 29.98\*\* |
| group (CPTSD/non-CPTSD) | 10.62 | 3.10 | 45.17 | 11.72\*\* |
| group x time interaction | 0.05 | 0.08 | 27.00 | 0.41 |

*Abbreviations:* CAPS-CA: Clinician-Administered PTSD Scale for Children and Adolescents; CPTSD: Complex Posttraumatic Stress Disorder; ICD-11: International Classification of Diseases-11; UCLA-PTSD-RI: University of California at Los Angeles PTSD Reaction Index

\*\**p* < .01; \**p* < .05