Reviewer's report

**Title:** Association of childhood trauma with cognitive functioning in healthy adults: a pilot study

**Version:** 1 **Date:** 25 August 2009

**Reviewer:** Matthias Michal

**Reviewer's report:**

This is an interesting study on the impact of adverse childhood experiences on cognitive functions in later adulthood. The authors investigated N = 47 healthy adults with valid and reliable neuropsychological instruments. They found a statistical significant relationship between physical neglect and emotional abuse with memory deficits. I agree that this an interesting finding to be published.

But I have some minor revisions: 1) the sample should be described much more in detail. I wonder if someone can figure what emotional abuse = 1.54 (SE 0.10) really means. I would like to suggest a) to present the dichotomized prevalences for the subscales of the CTQ, b) to present the CTQ total score and c) to describe the anchors of the CTQ and give the reader some probes of the items. 2) I wonder if there was no subthreshold depression or anxiety in the sample. Lack of assessment of depression and anxiety severity is a weakness of the study, which should be discussed at least. 3) I wonder if it is possible to dichotomize the sample in persons with substantial childhood adversities and subjects not having been exposed. As a discretionary revision I would like to suggest to test group differences also. 4) I wonder if it is possible to line out a bit more the clinical relevance of the findings, e.g. by comparing them to results of clinical samples.

**Level of interest:** An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests