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

*Obligatorio

Your name *

First Last

María Carolina Klos

Primary Affiliation (short), City, Country *

University of Toronto, Toronto, Canada

CONICET (CIICSAC-UAP), Entre Ríos, Argentina

Your e-mail address *

abc@gmail.com

mcarolinaklos@gmail.com

Title of your manuscript *

Provide the (draft) title of your manuscript.

Artificial Intelligence-based Chatbot for Anxiety and Depression in University Students: Pilot Randomized Controlled Trial

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.

X2AI Inc is the name of the company and Tess

Evaluated Version (if any)

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

Tu respuesta

Language(s) *

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

English, Spanish, Dutch

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.facebook.com/ChatwithMila>

URL of an image/screenshot (optional)

Tu respuesta

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
- ☐ Otros:

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)"

Emotional support, emotional wellbeing, coach

Primary Outcomes measured in trial *

comma-separated list of primary outcomes reported in the trial

Viability, acceptability, and potential impact of

Secondary/other outcomes

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

Symptoms of anxiety, Symptoms of depression

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"
- ☐ Otros:

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%

☐ Otros:

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

☐ Otros:

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
- ☐ Otros:

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
- ☐ Otros:

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

☒ Otros: ms#20678

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

☐ Otros:

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 ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☒ essential

Borrar la selección

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

"Artificial Intelligence-based Chatbot for Anxiety and Depression in University Students: Pilot Randomized Controlled 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 ☐ ☒ ☐ ☐ ☐ essential

Borrar la selección

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

Tu respuesta

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 ☐ ☐ ☐ ☒ ☐ essential

Borrar la selección

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

"Artificial Intelligence–based Chatbot for Anxiety and Depression in University Students: Pilot Randomized Controlled 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 ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☒ essential

Borrar la selección

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

"The objective of the present study was to evaluate the viability, acceptability, and potential impact of using Tess, a chatbot, for examining symptoms of depression and anxiety in university students".

"The experimental condition used Tess for 8 weeks and the control condition was assigned to a psychoeducation book on depression".

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)

subitem not at all important 1 2 3 4 5 essential

☐ ☒ ☐ ☐ ☐

Borrar la selección

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

Tu respuesta

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 ☐ ☒ ☐ ☐ ☐ essential

Borrar la selección

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

Tu respuesta

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 ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☒ essential

Borrar la selección

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

"The initial sample consisted of 181 Argentinian college students (158, 87.2% female) aged 18 to 33. Data at week 8 were provided by 39 out of the 99 (39%) participants in the experimental condition and 34 out of the 82 (41%) in the control group. On an average, 472 (SD 249.52) messages were exchanged, with 116 (SD 73.87) of the messages sent from the users in response to Tess. A higher number of messages exchanged with Tess was associated with positive feedback ($F_{2,36}=4.37$; $P=.02$). No significant differences between the experimental and control groups were found from the baseline to week 8 for depressive and anxiety symptoms. However, significant intragroup differences demonstrated that the experimental group showed a significant decrease in anxiety symptoms; no such differences were observed for the control group. Further, no significant intragroup differences were found for depressive symptoms".

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 ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☒ essential

Borrar la selección

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

Tu respuesta

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 ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☒ essential

Borrar la selección

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

"The most prevalent disorders in Argentina are anxiety (16.4%) and mood (12.3%) disorders. The average age for the onset of these conditions is 20 years [1]. The Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) and the Argentinian Ministry of Health have highlighted the importance of optimizing health care services for individuals who are not receiving any form of psychological care [2]. Furthermore, the epidemiological data collected in Argentina emphasizes the need for strategies that prevent delays to treatment access [1]. Behavioral intervention technologies (BITs) are a novel and effective delivery format that can expand the mental health services offered and facilitate early access to those in need [3]. Chatbots are examples of BITs that represent an opportunity for addressing delays associated with access to treatment for depression and anxiety [4]. However, no studies on the use of chatbots for analyzing depression and anxiety have been conducted in Argentina".

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 ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☒ essential

Borrar la selección

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

"Chatbots developed using artificial intelligence (AI) are emerging in the field of psychology [5]. Currently, there are two chatbots that have addressed anxiety and depressive symptoms, Woebot [6] and Tess [7]. Woebot is a chatbot based on the cognitive behavioral approach with evidence for the reduction of anxiety and depressive symptoms in students during a follow-up after 2 weeks. Fulmer et al [7] reported a reduction in depressive and anxiety symptoms in college students using Tess, a chatbot that provides support and psychoeducation through an integrative approach. Although the research completed by Fulmer et al [7] and Fitzpatrick et al [6] reported decreased depressive and anxiety symptoms in college students, these studies were performed in the United States. To the best of our knowledge, there are no studies on chatbots used for addressing mental health disorders in Spanish-speaking populations. Other examples of chatbots with empirical support are Manage Your Life Online (MYLO) that focuses on problem solving [8]; Shim, for well-being based on the cognitive behavioral approach and elements of positive psychology [9]; Tess for pediatric obesity and prediabetes treatment [10]; and Wysa, a chatbot that uses cognitive behavioral therapy, behavioral reinforcement, and mindfulness techniques to support patients with depression [11]. Research studies on chatbots for mental health have several limitations such as small sample sizes and short-term follow-ups [6,7]. Additionally, current chatbots for mental health promotion present several problems, such as the lack of recognition of the emotional tone of users, crisis identification and management, as well as the need for strategies to reduce the frustration arising from feelings of incomprehension by users when the chatbot does not respond accurately".

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 present study aims to assess the viability and acceptability of psychological interventions delivered through Tess to college students in Argentina. The objectives of this study were as follows: (1) identify participant flow from recruitment to follow-up; (2) understand aspects related to the usage patterns of Tess, such as the number of messages sent and exchanged; (3) examine the relationship between the feedback provided by the participants and the number of messages exchanged with Tess; and (4) compare the outcomes on depression and anxiety between and within groups among the college students who completed the study. Although the focus of this research was not the effectiveness of the chatbot, comparisons were made between the experimental and control groups to obtain preliminary data for future randomized controlled trials given the importance of obtaining preliminary information about the viability and acceptability of Tess as a means of psychological intervention for college students in Argentina".

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

"This was a pilot randomized controlled parallel-group trial. The experimental group had access to Tess for 8 weeks and the control group to a psychoeducation electronic book".

"Participants who provided consent were assigned to the experimental or control group by simple randomization conducted through a Python algorithm".

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

Important changes to methods after trial commencement: 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

Borrar la selección

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

Tu respuesta

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

"The participants were college students in Entre Ríos, Argentina. The inclusion criteria were as follows: being a resident of Argentina, 18 years or older, and a college student, as well as providing 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 ☐ ☐ ☒ ☐ ☐ essential

Borrar la selección

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

Tu respuesta

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 ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☒ essential

Borrar la selección

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

"Recruitment was conducted through presentations in different university courses".

"Data were collected through Tess".

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 ☐ ☐ ☐ ☒ ☐ essential

Borrar la selección

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

Tu respuesta

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

"Data were collected through Tess".

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

Borrar la selección

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

"Self-reporting questionnaire". "Data were collected through Tess".

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 ☐ ☐ ☒ ☐ ☐ essential

Borrar la selección

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

Tu respuesta

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).

subitem not at all important 1 2 3 4 5 essential

☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☒

Borrar la selección

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

"Conflict of interest": Milagros Escoredo, Angie Joerin and Michiel Rauws work at X2 Inc.

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.

subitem not at all important 1 2 3 4 5 essential

☐ ☐ ☐ ☒ ☐

Borrar la selección

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

"In the present study, customized conversations for university students in Argentina were elaborated, revised, and tested within the framework of a previous study developed in the United States [7]".

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).

subitem not at all important 1 2 3 4 5 essential

☐ ☐ ☒ ☐ ☐

Borrar la selección

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

Tu respuesta

5-iv) Quality assurance methods

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

subitem not at all important 1 2 3 4 5 essential

☐ ☐ ☒ ☐ ☐

Borrar la selección

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

Tu respuesta

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.

subitem not at all important 1 2 3 4 5 essential

☐ ☐ ☒ ☐ ☐

Borrar la selección

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

Tu respuesta

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](https://www.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.

subitem not at all important 1 2 3 4 5 essential

☐ ☐ ☒ ☐ ☐

Borrar la selección

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

Tu respuesta

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

Borrar la selección

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

"During the 8-week intervention for this test, Tess initiated contact asking about the emotions and moods of the participants once a day during the initial weeks and every other day in the following weeks. All the conversations with Tess occurred through Facebook messenger".

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 ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☒ essential

Borrar la selección

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

"The experimental group utilized Tess, an AI-based chatbot that delivers brief text conversations as comprehensive support for mental health".

"Tess sends reminders, psychoeducational content, and emotional support responses based on what the users express. Tess combines words and emojis in the messages for providing a more user-friendly experience. Tess responds with prescribed statements to replicate empathetic answers that are appropriate for the emotion or concern expressed by the participants".

"For example, a participant expressing anxious feelings would be offered a relaxation strategy. The conversations offered by Tess were based on the cognitive behavioral model [12], emotion-focused therapy [13], solution-focused brief therapy [14], and motivational interviewing [15]. Such conversations were developed by mental health experts. After each conversation, Tess asked, "Was our conversation helpful?" If a user responded positively (eg, "yes, thank you") to a an intervention based on cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT) and negatively (eg, "no, not really") to emotion-focused therapy, Tess would then offer more CBT-based interventions. For users who answered in a negative or neutral manner, Tess would offer alternative interventions".

"An electronic psychoeducation book focusing on affective symptoms was provided to the participants in the control group [16]. The provided evidence-based information and resources helped students identify and seek treatment for depressive symptoms".

"Upon completion of the study, the control group obtained access to Tess for 8 weeks and both groups were granted free access to Tess for a year".

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	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	essential

Borrar la selección

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

Tu respuesta

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	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	essential

Borrar la selección

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

Tu respuesta

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

Borrar la selección

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

"Tess sends reminders, psychoeducational content, and emotional support responses based on what the users express".

"During the 8-week intervention for this test, Tess initiated contact asking about the emotions and moods of the participants once a day during the initial weeks and every other day in the following weeks. All the conversations with Tess occurred through Facebook messenger".

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

Borrar la selección

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

Describe any co-interventions (incl. training/support): N/A

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

"Engagement was measured using the number of messages exchanged with Tess. In addition, the dropout rates in the experimental and control groups were analyzed. The perceived feedback of the participants was collected after each conversation with Tess through the following question: "Was our conversation helpful?" The answers from the users were coded as positive, negative, or ambivalent and assigned values of 1, 2, and 3, respectively. For instance, if a user responded saying "yes, thank you," then that response was coded as positive".

"The Patient Health Questionnaire-9 (PHQ-9) [17] is a self-reporting questionnaire..."

"The Generalized Anxiety Disorder Scale (GAD-7) [19] is a 7-item self-reporting scale..."

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	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	essential

Borrar la selección

Does your paper address subitem 6a-i?

Copy and paste relevant sections from manuscript text

Tu respuesta

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	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒	essential
Borrar la selección						

Does your paper address subitem 6a-ii?

Copy and paste relevant sections from manuscript text

"Engagement was measured using the number of messages exchanged with Tess. In addition, the dropout rates in the experimental and control groups were analyzed".

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	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐	essential
Borrar la selección

Does your paper address subitem 6a-iii?

Copy and paste relevant sections from manuscript text

"The perceived feedback of the participants was collected after each conversation with Tess through the following question: "Was our conversation helpful?" The answers from the users were coded as positive, negative, or ambivalent and assigned values of 1, 2, and 3, respectively. For instance, if a user responded saying "yes, thank you," then that response was coded as positive".

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

Any changes to trial outcomes after the trial commenced: N/A

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	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	essential

Borrar la selección

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

Tu respuesta

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

When applicable, explanation of any interim analyses and stopping guidelines: N/A

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

"Participants who provided consent were assigned to the experimental or control group by simple randomization conducted through a Python algorithm".

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

"simple randomization conducted through a Python algorithm".

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

"conducted through a Python algorithm".

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

"conducted through a Python algorithm".

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).

1 2 3 4 5

subitem not at all important ☐ ☐ ☐ ☒ ☐ essential

Borrar la selección

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

who was blinded after assignment to interventions: N/A

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 ☐ ☐ ☐ ☒ ☐ essential

Borrar la selección

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

Tu respuesta

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

If relevant, description of the similarity of interventions: N/A

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

"A one-factor analysis of variance (ANOVA) was applied to determine if feedback (positive, negative, or ambivalent) impacted the number of interactions that users had with Tess. To examine the baseline characteristics between samples, a t test was performed for independent samples to compare anxiety levels. The Mann-Whitney U statistic (respecting the ordinal nature of the variables; ie, if the first two items were scored 0 or 1, the system did not ask the subsequent items) was used to compare depressive symptoms. To evaluate the effects between conditions, a t test was performed for the independent samples to assess the anxiety symptoms and the Mann-Whitney U statistic was used to compare the mean ranges of depression. To assess the longitudinal effects from the baseline to week 8 within conditions, a t test was performed for related samples assess the anxiety symptoms and the Wilcoxon test was performed to compare the mean ranges of depression. To complement the significance test, the effect sizes in the intragroup and intergroup tests were calculated. For the t tests, the effect size was calculated using Cohen d; measures between 0.2 and 0.3 were labeled "small effect," around 0.5 as "moderate effect," and above 0.8 as "large effect" [23]. For the Mann-Whitney U and Wilcoxon tests, the formula r was calculated based on the z scores. The measures between 0.1 and 0.3 were labeled "small effect," between 0.3 and 0.5 as "moderate effect," and above 0.5 as large effect" [23, 24]."

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]).

1 2 3 4 5

subitem not at all important ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☒ essential

Borrar la selección

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

"The treatment of missing data through multiple imputation or plausibility analysis techniques was not possible owing to the high percentage of participants who dropped out of the intervention [22]"

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

Methods for additional analyses, such as subgroup analyses and adjusted analyses: N/A

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 ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☒ essential

[Borrar la selección](#)

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

"The study was approved by the Research Ethics Committee of the Faculty of Health Sciences (FCS) of the Universidad Adventista del Plata (UAP), National Registry of Health Research (RENIS, reference number: CE000237), and Ministerial Resolution of the Ministry of Health of the Province of Entre Ríos (reference number: 3999). This resolution is recorded in ACT 1-2019 of the registration of this committee. Participants expressed their consent in a form according to the personal data protection law (Argentine National Law 25.326) through checkbox selection (electronic signature) on a closed form".

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 ☐ ☐ ☐ ☒ ☐ essential

[Borrar la selección](#)

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

"Participants expressed their consent in a form according to the personal data protection law (Argentine National Law 25.326) through checkbox selection (electronic signature) on a closed form".

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 ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☒ essential

Borrar la selección

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

"Data were collected through Tess. All personally identifiable information was eliminated in the transcriptions downloaded from Tess. The downloaded data were processed and stored using secure servers and were compliant with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act. Upon completion of the study, the control group obtained access to Tess for 8 weeks and both groups were granted free access to Tess for a year. If a participant expressed suicidal ideations, Tess was programmed to provide the National Line of Suicide Prevention numbers, the crisis text line, and 911, and encourage seeking professional help".

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

"The initial sample consisted of 181 college students in Argentina, aged 18 to 33, with 158 (87.2%) identifying as female. Among the 181 students, 99 (55%) were randomized to the experimental condition and 82 (45%) to the control condition. Data at week 8 were provided by 39 out of the 99 (39%) participants in the experimental condition and 34 out of the 82 (41%) in the control group. Regarding data on the depressive symptoms, 33 (33%) participants in the experimental condition and 30 (37%) in the control condition provided data at week 8. Regarding data on anxiety symptoms, 27 (27%) participants in the experimental condition and 23 (28%) in the control condition provided data at week 8 (see Figure 1)".

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, this is shown in a CONSORT flow diagram.

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	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	essential
Borrar la selección						

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

Tu respuesta

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

"The experimental condition used Tess for 8 weeks".

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	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	essential
Borrar la selección

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

Tu respuesta

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

Why the trial ended or was stopped (early): N/A

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

Yes, a table with the clinical characteristics is included.

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 ☐ ☐ ☒ ☐ ☐ essential

Borrar la selección

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

Report demographics associated with digital divide issues: N/A

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 ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☒ essential

Borrar la selección

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

"Regarding the participants' engagement with Tess (39/99), after 8 weeks, there was an average of 472 exchanged messages (SD 249.52), where the minimum interaction level involved 162 messages and the maximum involved 1290."

Sample numbers are included in each table.

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 ☐ ☐ ☒ ☐ ☐ essential

Borrar la selección

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

Tu respuesta

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

"Regarding the effect sizes, the mean scores for anxiety in the experimental group were lower than for the control group after 8 weeks and the effect size of the intervention was moderate ($d=.50$; 95% CI -6.96 $-.51$). For depressive symptoms, the experimental group reported a lower mean score than the control group and the effect size of the intervention was nonexistent ($r=.09$)".

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).

	1	2	3	4	5	
subitem not at all important	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	essential

Borrar la selección

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

Tu respuesta

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

For binary outcomes, presentation of both absolute and relative effect sizes is recommended: N/A

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

Results of any other analyses performed, including subgroup analyses and adjusted analyses, distinguishing pre-specified from exploratory: N/A

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 ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☒ essential

Borrar la selección

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

Tu respuesta

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

All important harms or unintended effects in each group: N/A

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].

subitem not at all important 1 2 3 4 5 essential

☐ ☐ ☐ ☒ ☐

Borrar la selección

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

Tu respuesta

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.

subitem not at all important 1 2 3 4 5 essential

☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☒

Borrar la selección

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

Tu respuesta

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).

subitem not at all important 1 2 3 4 5 essential

☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☒

Borrar la selección

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

"Regarding the usage patterns of Tess, there are three findings that support a satisfactory level of engagement. First, a considerable number of participants in the experimental (39/99, 39%) and control (34/82, 41%)".

"Second, participants in the experimental condition had exchanged a considerable number of messages with Tess (M 472; SD 249.52), and the mean number of messages sent from the user to Tess was 116 (SD 73.87)".

"Third, feedback provided by those in the experimental condition was mostly positive (eg, Yes, you really understand me, Tess. Thanks for talking to me.). Among the participants offering negative feedback, there was a predominant dissatisfaction regarding the accuracy of some interventions (eg, Sometimes I ask you something and you don't specifically respond to what I asked.)".

"Regarding the impact of Tess on anxiety and depressive symptoms, no statistically significant differences were found between groups. Interestingly, when comparing within-group scores, the experimental group showed a significant decrease in anxiety symptoms after 8 weeks of intervention and a near-significant trend ($P=0.07$) for depressive symptoms. Analyzing the effect sizes showed that Tess had a moderate effect on anxiety and no effect on depression in the experimental group".

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 ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☒ essential

Borrar la selección

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

"Limitations and Future Directions"

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 ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☒ essential

Borrar la selección

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

"This pilot study has several limitations. First, the current analysis was conducted with intervention completers; therefore, future studies with larger samples (including completer and intent-to-treat analyses) are needed. Second, only college students from a specific region in Argentina were included in this study, and the socioeconomic aspects of the sample were not assessed; thus, the inclusion of a more diversified sample is suggested. Third, there was a high dropout rate throughout the 8-week period".

"Fourth, as most participants who remained until completion of the study were female, male participation was scarce. Fifth, the control group had access to a psychoeducation book, and there was no information on whether they read it. As chatbot research is in its initial stages, further studies could benefit from offering waitlists rather than self-help books. Although offering a waitlist could present an ethical dilemma, this would mitigate".

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 ☐ ☐ ☐ ☒ ☐ essential

Borrar la selección

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

Tu respuesta

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 ☐ ☐ ☐ ☒ ☐ essential

Borrar la selección

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

Tu respuesta

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

Registration number and name of trial registry: N/A

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

Where the full trial protocol can be accessed, if available: N/A

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

Sources of funding and other support (such as supply of drugs), role of funders: N/A

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

☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☒

Borrar la selección

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

Milagros Escoredo, Angie Joerin and Michiel Rauws work at X2 Inc.

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?

Tu respuesta

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

How much time did you spend on going through the checklist INCLUDING making changes in your manuscript: Three hours.

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

- ☒ yes
- ☐ no
- ☐ Otros:

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
- ☐ Otros:

Borrar la selección

Any other comments or questions on CONSORT EHEALTH

Tu respuesta

STOP - Save this form as PDF before you click submit

To generate a record that you filled in this form, we recommend to generate a PDF of this page (on a Mac, simply select "print" and then select "print as PDF") before you submit it.

When you submit your (revised) paper to JMIR, please upload the PDF as supplementary file.

Don't worry if some text in the textboxes is cut off, as we still have the complete information in our database. Thank you!

Final step: Click submit !

Click submit so we have your answers in our database!

Enviar

Nunca envíes contraseñas a través de Formularios de Google.

Google no creó ni aprobó este contenido. [Denunciar abuso](#) - [Condiciones del Servicio](#) - [Política de Privacidad](#)

Google Formularios