**Additional file 1**

**Table 1.** Content of the treatment session-per-session

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| **Content of the session** | **Brief description** | **Instruction *at start* of session** | **Homework assignments *after* session**  |
| Session 1: Introduction, identification of complaints, and psychoeducation | Therapist asks about the disappearance, identifies psychological complaints, and explains the rationale of treatment and handles out the treatment manual.  | Completing brief questionnaire | Treatment manual: Reading of chapter 1 to 3, and paragraph 4.5Writing assignment 1 (2 x 45 min. per assignment) |
| Session 2: Providing and receiving social support | In the second session the client is asked to invite a significant other who is willing to offer social support. | Completing brief questionnaireReflections on writing assignment 1  | Treatment manual: Reading of chapter 3 and 4Writing assignment 2 (2 x 45 min. per assignment) |
| Session 3: Introducing mindfulness | Introducing mindfulness and encouraging mindfulness practices at home. | Completing brief questionnaireReflections on writing assignment 1  | Treatment manual: Reading of chapter 4Practicing mindfulness exercises 5 days per weekUpdating mindfulness diary |
| Session 4: Identifying thought patterns and reducing repetitive negative thoughts by mindfulness-exercises  | The client learns how thought patterns are related to his/her coping with the disappearance. The therapist offers a framework for identifying and observing thought patterns and challenging unhelpful thought patterns. Possible intrusive memories/images are targeted with exposure-assignments. | Completing brief questionnaireReflections on mindfulness-diary | Writing assignment 3 (2 x 45 min. per assignment)Treatment manual: Reading of chapter 4Practicing mindfulness exercises 5 days per weekUpdating mindfulness diary  |
| Session 5: see description session 4 | see description session 4 | Completing brief questionnaireReflections on writing assignment 3Reflections on mindfulness-diary | Treatment manual: Reading of chapter 4Practicing mindfulness exercises 5 days per weekUpdating mindfulness diary |
| Session 6: see description session 4 | see description session 4 | Completing brief questionnaireReflections on mindfulness-diary | Practicing mindfulness exercises 5 days per weekUpdating mindfulness diary |
| Session 7: see description session 4 | see description session 4 | Completing brief questionnaireReflections on mindfulness-diary | Writing assignment 4 (2 x 45 min. per assignment)Practicing mindfulness exercises 5 days per weekUpdating mindfulness diary |
| Session 8 | Appointments are made about ending or continuing treatment and relapse is discussed | Completing brief questionnaireReflections on writing assignment 4Reflections on mindfulness-diary |  |