Reviewer's report

Title: Incident somatic comorbidity after psychosis: results from a retrospective cohort study based on Flemish general practice data

Version: 3 Date: 30 September 2011

Reviewer: Peter Schofield

Reviewer's report:

Major revisions

1) I suggested the issue of potential attrition due to patient mortality could be addressed in the discussion. This is important as the authors themselves say “Psychotic conditions and especially schizophrenia, have been associated with increased morbidity and mortality.” Furthermore, one of their main conclusions – that differs from the previous literature - is that there was no difference in CVD outcomes however there is no discussion as to why this might be. The lack of any mortality data might help explain why there is not a significantly increased CVD risk in this study – and should therefore be addressed.

2) The language is still poor and potentially misleading – for example a sentence like: “Studies have revealed good validity of using GP diagnosis for diagnosing psychotic illness” suggests the GPs themselves are diagnosing psychotic illness – is this the case or is it the diagnosis as recorded by GPs that they are talking about?

3) The table giving unadjusted ORs has been removed – however my original request was that this should be presented as RRs so that the figures can be compared with the main table. This is potentially useful information that I can see no reason to exclude. Also the original sentence about calculating unadjusted ORs is still in the text - although no results are given.

Minor revisions:

1) As the authors state "Many studies have found that patients with schizophrenia have increased rates of several chronic medical conditions". However, their claim to originality is that "Most other studies on somatic comorbidity in psychosis patients are crosssectional". It would be useful then to know more about how this study compares with these other studies that have used longitudinal data – as it is the comparison with other studies is very sparse.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

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