Reviewer's report

Title: Benzodiazepine Prescribing Behaviour and Attitudes: A Survey among General Practitioners Practicing in Northern Thailand

Version: 1 Date: 8 February 2005

Reviewer: Frans G. G Zitman

Reviewer's report:

General

This is a simple, effective low-budget study which may help to reduce benzodiazepine overprescription in Thailand and other developing countries.

Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

I miss a comment on the case vignette on depression. As it is appropriate to co-prescribe benzodiazepines for some weeks in the beginning of treatment with antidepressants it will be very difficult to interpret the finding that 47.2% of the GPs prescribed benzodiazepines in case 3. How often the GP proposed benzodiazepines as the only drug and how often as adjunct to an antidepressant in the beginning of the treatment?

In 'Discussion' (page 11) the validity of the study is questioned because of the moderate response rate. To make this question less serious responders and non-responders should be compared on a number of characteristics.

Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

Reference # 3. I could not find a clear statement in this reference that treatment with benzodiazepines in GAD may do more harm than good. However, such a statement can be found in the accompanying website of the BMJ. (see page 4 Background)

Reference # 5 was published in 1981. Such an old reference does not seem very appropriate for the sentence in which it was used (see page 4, Background).

Results section, mistake in line 3: 'questionnaires from 55 GPs (25 males and 20 females)'

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

The authors may suggest in the discussion section to repeat the study with a second group of GPs in a Western European country with a GP structure similar to the system in Thailand to compare developing and developed countries. I am not sure substantial differences will be found.

What next?: Unable to decide on acceptance or rejection until the authors have responded to the
major compulsory revisions

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

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** No

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests