Reviewer's report

Title: Quality of life and metabolic status in mildly depressed patients with type 2 diabetes treated with paroxetine: A double-blind randomised placebo controlled 6-month trial

Version: 4 Date: 26 March 2007

Reviewer: Ruth S Weinstock

Reviewer's report:

General
I am still concerned that this study is underpowered and am concerned about the large number of drop-outs in the placebo group (almost half the subjects). Given these limitations, the conclusions are overstated. The next to the last paragraph ("A post hoc subgroup analysis of covariance was performed...") is problematic and should probably be deleted. The authors conclude, based on this post hoc analysis, that there was a significant benefit of paroxetine on serum glucose levels after 6 months in mildly depressed subjects. Not only are there intrinsic problems with this type of post hoc analysis, but this is based on data from only 4 subjects in the placebo group and 5 subjects in the paroxetine group.

Re: final decision: I defer to the statistician. The statistical concern is whether valid conclusions can be made based on the small "n", large placebo drop-out rate and associated data presented in this manuscript.

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

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

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

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

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests.