Reviewer’s report

Title: Determining the Impact of Medical Co-morbidity on Subjective and Objective Cognitive Performance in an Inner City Memory Disorders Clinic: A Retrospective Chart Review

Version: 2 Date: 17 October 2010

Reviewer: Klaus P. Ebmeier

Reviewer’s report:

1. Is the question posed by the authors well defined?
The authors hypothesize "based on the literature that low SES, increased medical co-morbidity, low education, and the presence of depression would be associated with objective cognitive impairment but not necessarily with subjective memory loss."

This hypothesis is fine as far as it goes, but to what extend do the results of this study illuminate the nature of cognitive impairment found in a memory clinic?

2. Are the methods appropriate and well described?
"It should be noted that to adjust for the confounding effects of age we reran the spearman rank correlations analyses with age as a co-variate and the results were similar except for a small change in the magnitude of the observed associations. In addition, we conducted multivariable linear regression to examine whether depression or subjective memory complaints were associated with objective memory loss when the effects of medical comorbidity were removed. We found no significant associations." The rationale and the details of this analysis are not clear.

3. Are the data sound?
See above.

4. Does the manuscript adhere to the relevant standards for reporting and data deposition?
Yes.

5. Are the discussion and conclusions well balanced and adequately supported by the data?
Not known.

6. Are limitations of the work clearly stated?
Yes

7. Do the authors clearly acknowledge any work upon which they are building, both published and unpublished?
Yes

8. Do the title and abstract accurately convey what has been found?
"Impact of Medical Co-morbidity on Subjective and Objective Cognitive Performance" implies a causal connection which cannot be proven with cross-sectional data. "Association" would be more appropriate.

9. Is the writing acceptable?
Yes

**Level of interest:** An article of limited interest

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

**Declaration of competing interests:**
'I declare that I have no competing interests'