Reviewer's report

**Title:** Duloxetine for the Long-Term Treatment of Major Depressive Disorder in Patients Aged 65 and Older: An Open-Label Study

**Version:** 1  **Date:** 6 July 2004

**Reviewer:** Eugenio Aguglia

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The Authors wrote an open-label study regarding a sample of 101 subjects over 65 with MDD diagnosis. It was evaluated the efficacy and safety of duloxetine for up to 52 weeks. The methodology and statistical analysis was well conducted. Even if the measures, which include scales for depression and improvement, are suitable, they could be integrated with a scale regarding cognitive changes. This remark is due to the fact that the patients over 65 affected of depression, frequently report reduction of their performance and this symptom is often considered by patient and his family like a cognitive impairment not correlated with affective disorder.

Results and discussion are described with competence and clearness. References are sufficient and up-to-date.