Reviewer's report

Title: Discomfort and agitation in older adults with dementia of the Alzheimers type

Version: 1 Date: 1 December 2006

Reviewer: David Conn

Reviewer's report:

General
This is an important addition to the literature on agitation associated with Dementia and draws attention to the clinical necessity of monitoring for discomfort and associated conditions.

Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)
1. Authors should comment further on the Diagnosis of Dementia of the Alzheimer's Type. They say that the diagnosis was taken from the chart. How was the diagnosis made. Did the patients have a prior workup for Dementia ? How confident can we be about the Diagnosis ?
If the authors are not confident about the diagnosis the paper could refer to Dementia in general rather than DAT.
2. Suggest that authors add a list of the "9 behavioural indicators of discomfort" from the Discomfort Scale on page 8. This would help the reader to understand the concept.

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?: Accept after minor essential revisions

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No

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