Reviewer's report

Title: Validity of Simpson-Angus Scale (SAS) in a naturalistic schizophrenia population

Version: 2 Date: 11 February 2005

Reviewer: Michael P Caligiuri

Reviewer's report:

General

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

The authors now provide useful information on the individual SAS items for the two subject groups in Table 1. While the total score for the NIP group was significantly higher than for the non-NIP group, it is not clear if this was true for all items. Please note in the table, those items not showing significant group effects. If all were significant, please indicate this in the text.

It would be helpful to the reader if the authors would interpret the meaning of the ROC values in Table 3. For example, what does it mean to have an AUC of 0.53 (Salivation) versus 0.66 (tremor) versus 0.93 (elbow rigidity). Are items with low AUCs less able to discriminate between DSM-IV defined NIP and non-NIP patients? What is the lowest value that would indicate usefulness?

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

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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

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What next?: Accept after minor essential 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