Reviewer's report

Title: Suicidal intention, psychosocial factors and referral to further treatment - a one-year cross-sectional study of self-poisonings

Version: 2 Date: 18 March 2010

Reviewer: Jess Fiedorowicz

Reviewer's report:

Re-Review of Bjornnas MA et al.

The authors have been highly responsive to previous review. Their rationale for maintaining terminology is acceptable. The paper is better organized and well-written. Important findings are highlighted.

Major compulsory revisions:
A1) Based on my calculations, the annual incidence should read 0.21% rather than 2.1% (page 6).

Minor essential revisions:
B1) Please consider changing “Informed consent was asked for” to “Informed consent was obtained.” Please also specify whether informed consent was written or verbal.
B2) The GHB abbreviation should be provided on page 5.
B3) Is the following statement in the discussion based on data presented?
   “Although both suicide attempt patients and appeal patients displayed aspects of suicidal behavior, the suicide attempt patients were probably in a deeper crisis at the time of admission.”
   If not, consider removing.

Discretionary revisions:
C1) The discussion states the following “However, the main distinction between suicide attempt patients and appeal patients in this study was the suicidal intent, and the terms “moderate to high suicide intent” versus “low or no suicide intent” might have been used instead.”

While I agree with this statement, which was provided in response to my concern about the term, the authors have already addressed the limitations of terminology and provided an adequate rationale to their use of the term. I wonder if this sentence could be reworded to reconnect with their findings. Perhaps, something like “given the similarity between suicide attempt and appeal patients observed in our study, terminology may appropriately focus on the overall level of intent rather than the presumed motivation implied by terms such as gesture or appeal.”
The authors can decide whether to retain, modify, or eliminate this sentence.

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests.