Reviewer's report

**Title:** Change in appetite as a predictor of weight changes during treatment with olanzapine

**Version:** 1  **Date:** 3 April 2010

**Reviewer:** Trino Baptista

**Reviewer's report:**

1) This is an important study, on an unresolved issue.
2) The manuscript is well written.
3) Figures are a little difficult to read. They might be made easier.
4) There are critical references and studies that are missing: a) Kroeze WK et al., Neuropsychopharmacol., 2003, 28: 519-526; b) The study of Kinon et alk., J Clin PSychopharmacol, 2005, showing the same results that the authors found here.
5) In the Discussion, the authors refer to studies in rats suggesting an interaction between hyperphagia and sedation. Hence, they look for support in these studies for a non-hyperphagia mechanism in the effects of olanzapine. However, early studies with sulpiride found that there are not weight gain without hyperphagia in female rats (Baptista T., et al., Prog. Neusopsychopharmacol & Biol. Psychiat, 1998, 22; 187-198. This study might be quoted.
6) While limitations are well acknowledged, it should be insisted that the appetite scales have not been validated. Are you sure they differentiate well from "no change to increased appetite" to "no change to decreased appetite" particularly in severely disturbed patients?

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

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests.