Reviewer's report

Title: Familial association of neurological soft signs in schizophrenia: a systematic review and meta-analysis

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Reviewer: Paola Dazzan

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The meta-analysis “Familial association of neurological soft signs in schizophrenia: a systematic review and meta-analysis” by Neelam et al, has reviewed the existing literature on neurological soft signs in patients with schizophrenia, their relatives, and healthy controls. The authors conclude that there is sufficient evidence that neurological signs are a potential endophenotype for schizophrenia.

The paper has clear aims, is focused and well written. The methodology used is sound.

Minor essential revisions:

1) The variable entered in the meta-analysis is the total neurological signs score, rather than individual subscales scores. This is understandable, since not all studies identified used the same scale. However, since there is enough evidence that different signs may have different origin, with some signs possibly more familial and other more neurodevelopmental, it would be interesting and informative to have a review and a comment as to whether there were differences in familial association across group of signs reflecting different functional areas.

2) There is always a possibility that the higher scores found in patients are due, for some signs, to the use of antipsychotic medications. A comment on this possibility should be added to the discussion.

3) The Table 1 with details of the search strategy could be moved to the additional material, while it would be important to have Table 2 (currently in the additional files) in the main body of the paper as it provides important information on the characteristics of the populations examined.

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