Reviewer's report

Title: Early response predicts subsequent response to olanzapine long-acting injection in a randomized, double-blind clinical trial of treatment for schizophrenia

Version: 1 Date: 26 March 2011

Reviewer: Stephen Levine

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1. Abstract - Include the ORs and 95% CIs of the 2*2 tables – readers won’t be familiar with all the PPV and NPV that are undefined abbreviations.

2. In the abstract - space permitting, clarify how quality of life, and social functioning were measured.

3. Something’s up with the referencing that is set as follows “.[1]” throughout.

4. P 6- In the introduction it’s no surprise that - higher Positive and Negative Syndrome Scale (PANSS) [10] are significant factors. It’s probably just regression to the mean.

Perhaps mention this as an artifact that’s present in all studies in the limitations.

5. Line beginning “Response at week 4” – Why is the reported accuracy considered to be a “high degree of accuracy”. Given a flip of a coin is 50, I’d like minimally 85 accuracy. So perhaps it’s more approaching high accuracy. My point is merely to justify the term “high degree of accuracy”. Perhaps check a receiver operator curve or cite something for direction.

6. Where cite CATIE is cited – it’s not that relevant because CATIE is a long-term treatment trial into chronic schizophrenia without a placebo arm (that effects dropout). I suggest supplementing the cite with something relevant like Rabinowitz, Levine et al’s meta-analysis on dropout in schizophrenia published in SB.

7. Final line – “Response to therapy at Week 4” replace with “Response to antipsychotic medication”

8. Many factors in the introduction are linked to the trajectory-group studies by Levine et al (perhaps see Levine & Leucht in Biological Psychiatry) that might have been cited as a direction for future research.

Level of interest: An article of outstanding merit and interest 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:
Dr Stephen Z Levine has received research support, and/or consultancy fees and/or travel support from F. Hoffmann-La Roche and Eli Lilly.