Reviewer’s report

Title: Sub-threshold depression and antidepressants use in a community sample: searching anxiety and finding bipolar disorder!

Version: 1 Date: 24 May 2011

Reviewer: Matthias Angermeyer

Reviewer’s report:

This paper reports findings from a pharmaco-epidemiological study conducted in Italy. Aim is to assess the use of antidepressants in people with sub-threshold depression and to examine the link between antidepressants use, bipolarity and anxiety disorders in these patients. The study comes up with quite interesting results which are of clinical relevance.

Before publication the following minor essential revisions seem necessary:
1. In the Abstract, the assessment of the lifetime prevalence of hypomania in sub-threshold is mentioned as one of the objectives of the study. However, no relevant information is provided in the Results section (or did I miss it?)
2. In the Tables, the meaning of some of the figures shown is not sufficiently explained. For instance, in Table 1 it remains unclear what the figures provided under the headings “male”, “female” and “total” indicate. Same with Tables 2 and 4. In Table 3, “Receipting by psychiatrist” and “DOC” need explanation.
3. The Discussion would benefit from adding a paragraph on limitations of the study. For instance, the question of representativeness of the findings for the whole of Italy may be addressed.
4. There are some spelling mistakes which need to be corrected.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

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