Reviewer's report

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

Version: 1 Date: 3 June 2011

Reviewer: Rodolfo Campos

Reviewer's report:

This is a quite interesting and important article discussing issues of major importance in clinical practice. But I have the following questions:

- Major Compulsory Revisions

1- INTRODUCTION:
The authors refer to the evaluation of the lifetime prevalence of hypomania but it is not shown in the results section.

2- METHODS
Recruitment methods and study sample:
The sample should be described in details, including inclusion and exclusion criteria. It is not clear if Bipolar Disorder patients were excluded and what is the ND group.

Interview, tools and study assessment:
In the text, MDQ indicates the presence of a mood disorder. Once MDQ is a screening tool it should be detailed if the authors considered it to make a diagnosis of Hipo/Mania and it relation to the ANTAS findings.

3- DISCUSSION
It should be discussed the limitations of using HAM-D as a diagnostic instrument. In this section the authors considered that MDQ detected a previous manic or hypomanic episode. The limitations of using this definition must be described.

- Minor Essential Revisions
Tables must be better organized and detailed.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published
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