Reviewer's report

Title: Efficacy, safety and tolerability of escitalopram in doses up to 50 mg in Major Depressive Disorder (MDD): an open-label, pilot study

Version: 2 Date: 2 December 2010

Reviewer: Thomas Schlaepfer

Reviewer's report:

This is a well-written paper concerning a clinically very relevant question, which has not been assessed before. Although conducted in a open-label pilot design the results obtained in the relatively large cohort (n=60) are highly relevant and lay the basis for RCT’s in larger patient groups.

Minor Issues:
- There are additional empty lines inserted on page 6
- Explain the reasoning for choosing MADRS as primary outcome
- Figures have to be redrawn, numbers are hard to read
- Figures 6-9 are mislabeled

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:

none