Reviewer's report

Title: Repetition of suicide attempts across episodes of severe depression
Behavioural sensitisation found in suicide group but not in controls

Version: 3 Date: 10 November 2010

Reviewer: Dana Lizardi

Reviewer's report:

Abstract:

Background
- the authors write “across the episodes”, it should specify “across depressive episodes”

Results- still says “suicides”
- the “adequate treatment” reference seems out of place

Main Text:

Background:
1st page:
1st paragraph- “if there were” should be “when there is”
2nd paragraph 1st sentence- needs a reference
4th paragraph should be added to the end of the 3rd paragraph not stand on its own
4th paragraph, last sentence “examines” should be “has examined” or “examined”

2nd page:
1st paragraph- 1st two sentences should be in methods
4th and 5th sentences- still says “suicides”
6th paragraph, last sentence- “proposed” should be "hypothesized"

Materials and Methods:
Sample:
5th paragraph, last sentence- “up to the death of the suicide” needs to be rewritten for clarity

Course of depression and suicide attempts:
1st paragraph, 1st sentence, consider replacing the word “accomplished” with “completed” which is a more commonly used term
3rd paragraph- the authors say they used a “broad definition of self-harm” but never state what that definition was. The definition should be included.

4th paragraph- the data presented in this paragraph are results and should be moved to that section.

Discussion:
1st paragraph, 1st sentence- “Future suicide victims repeated suicide attempts” this needs to be rewritten.
There are no clinical implications of findings presented. The authors should indicate the clinical relevance of their findings.

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.