Reviewer's report

Title: Validity of the Chinese version of the 32-item Hypomania Checklist (HCL-32) and the optimal cutoff screening bipolar disorders

Version: 1 Date: 19 January 2011

Reviewer: Allan Young

Reviewer's report:

Thank you for asking me to review this paper which is well conceived and written and should be a valuable contribution to the literature on this topic. Only a very few changes should be considered and these are outlined in the points below.

1. Is the question posed by the authors well defined?
   The question posed by the authors is well defined and described clearly. It is also an important one.

2. Are the methods appropriate and well described?
   The methods are entirely appropriate and well described.

3. Are the data sound?
   From the report the data appear entirely sound.

4. Does the manuscript adhere to the relevant standards for reporting and data deposition? Yes

5. Are the discussion and conclusions well balanced and adequately supported by the data?
   The discussion and conclusions are appropriate and supported by the data.

6. Are limitations of the work clearly stated?
   The limitations are clearly described.

7. Do the authors clearly acknowledge any work upon which they are building, both published and unpublished? They do.

8. Do the title and abstract accurately convey what has been found? Entirely.

9. Is the writing acceptable? The writing is satisfactory.

No major compulsory or minor essential revisions.

Discretionary revisions listed below

The only minor changes I would suggest might be considered relate to the reporting of the nature of the sample and related issues. The language/dialect group to which subjects belonged would be interesting as would be an analysis (if practicable) of whether the responses on the HCL varied with this. Some further discussion about the diagnosis of mood disorders in China generally might also be considered for the preamble.
Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.