Reviewer’s report

Title: Long-acting antipsychotic drugs for the treatment of schizophrenia: use in daily practice from naturalistic observations

Version: 2 Date: 21 May 2012

Reviewer: Bernardo Carpiniello

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The paper aimed to evaluate the “ideal profile” of patients who are candidate to LAI treatment, by means of a narrative review of naturalistic studies. Considering the importance of naturalistic studies for a better knowledge of treatments in the “real world”, this paper is worth of consideration.

However, some discretionary revisions should be welcome:

1. Inclusion and exclusion criteria. On page 7 Authors state, among others, that studies were excluded “..if patients had other pathologies included but not limited to borderline personality disorders or bipolar disorder”. Are they meaning that some comorbidities were excluded, or that pts with diagnoses other than schizophrenia and related disorders were not considered in the study? If the latter is the correct interpretation of the statement, including this exclusion criterion seems to be redundant respect to the diagnostic inclusion criteria which were clearly indicated before.

2. Demographic aspects: on page 9 Authors report “a higher proportion of male patients treated with LAIs as compared to females”. Given the importance of the gender differences issue, some more informations about aspects such as differential dosage regimens, duration of treatments, efficacy and tolerability should be greatly informative, if available. However, the fact that LAIs are used more frequently in males than in females pts should be commented and tentatively explained in discussion.

3. Clinical Aspects. On pag. 10, regarding the “perceptions of LAIs”, AA reported that “psychiatrists have decreased their LAI prescribing rates in the last five years…”. These data seem us to be worth of some more comments in “discussion”, where the only comment is “we found no obvious explanation…….”. For example, some “ideological” assumptions, or a substantial lack of knowledge of literature concerning possible advantages of LAIs etc..may play a role in guiding prescribing habits of psychiatrists.

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'