Reviewer's report

Title: Clinical Utility of the Snaith-Hamilton-Pleasure Scale in the Chinese Settings

Version: 1 Date: 19 July 2012

Reviewer: gwenole loas

Reviewer's report:

1) Major point: the authors have changed the citation of the SHAPS. In the original version as well as in the French or German versions the total score ranges from 0 to 14. Each item is scored 1 (response disagree) or 0 (response disagree). In the Chinese version each item is scored from 1 to 4 (totally agree, mild agree, mild disagree, totally agree). Thus, the total score ranges from 14 to 56. The authors must explain these changes.

2) Minor point. Taken into account the original scoring of the SHAPS, factorial factor analysis cannot be done as each variable is dichotomic and must be considered as categorical variable. The change of scoring in the Chinese version allows the possibility to explore construct validity of the scale using principal component analysis. This important point must be discussed.

3) Discretionary point. Several studies have suggested that only a subsample of schizophrenics are anhedonic. For example using the revised PAS one study (Anhedonia, depression and the deficit syndrome of schizophrenia. Loas G, Noisette C, Legrand A, Boyer P. Acta Psychiatr Scand. 1996 Dec;94(6):477-9.) reported that deficit schizophrenics (using Carpenter's definition) had significantly higher scores on the revised PAS than the scores of non-deficit schizophrenics. Moreover this difference was not explained by depression as deficit schizophrenic had lower score on the BDI than non-deficit schizophrenic. The interest to use the SHAPS in more restricted groups of schizophrenic patients must be discussed.

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'