Author's response to reviews

Title: Treatment and outcomes of an Australian cohort of outpatients with bipolar I or schizoaffective disorder over twenty-four months: implications for clinical practice

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Author's response to reviews:

Dear Ms. Olino,

Thank you for raising these points in your email correspondence dated 8-December. We hope that we have adequately addressed any concerns in the revised manuscript.

Related to your first point on ethics, we have added the following text to the Methods section (page 8), "All participants provided informed consent to participate in the study, which was conducted in accordance with Australian ethics and privacy laws, and in compliance with the Helsinki Declaration. This study was approved by the Research and Ethics Unit of Alfred Hospital (project # 108/03; Melbourne VIC, Australia)."

In response to your second point related to the potential overlap with previously published results we note that there is minimal overlap between these two reports. To clarify, these data are the final 24 month results from the BCOS study. The earlier publication reports the study design and study entry (or baseline) data. There is minimal overlap between these publications.

We appreciate your feedback and look forward to beginning the peer review process.

Best wishes,
Jayashri