Reviewer’s report

Title: Cognitive deficits in schizophrenia: an updated meta-analysis of the scientific evidence

Version: 1 Date: 3 April 2011

Reviewer: Leon Flicker

Reviewer’s report:

This is a good systematic review of an important question. A thorough search of the available literature has been performed and the available data are carefully synthesised. A search for heterogeneity has been made and since this was found, possible explanatory variables have been elucidated. There are no major flaws that I could detect in the methods of the review.

The discussion of the risk for bias is comprehensive but the language used is a little idiosyncratic at times.

For example
“A better control on the balance of number of cases, sex composition of the two groups, and, at a less extent, age of participants will take care of some of the structural dysfunctional characteristics which require to be better controlled and accounted for in all studies.”

Would be better as

“Ensuring a better balance in the control group for total numbers and for the variables of age and sex would reduce the bias in these studies.”

Level of interest: An article of outstanding merit and interest 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