Reviewer's report

Title: Clinical Features of Delirious Mania: A Series of Five Cases and Brief Literature Review

Version: 2 Date: 29 July 2011

Reviewer: Roger Bland

Reviewer's report:

The authors present a case report of 5 cases of delirious mania. There is no clear question that the authors are trying to answer. However they draw attention to the relative lack of reporting in the literature of cases of delirious mania and believe that reporting of additional cases including management may lead to better recognition and management of this potentially serious, even fatal, disorder. The case descriptions given are reasonably detailed but do present problems in knowing exactly what medications were being given at which stage of the illness. Since these were clinical cases, not part of any research project, with the material derived from case records, this may be a limitation of the study. The language of the paper is quite acceptable. The discussion and conclusions are reasonably well-balanced and adequately supported by the data. The limitations of the data, namely case reports, are clearly recognized.

Major compulsory revision.

1. The investigators enumerate their selection criteria for cases and found 5 patients who fit all their criteria. They should state the number that they excluded because of failing to meet one or other criterion.

Discretionary revisions.

1. The majority of the literature credits Bell as giving the 1st comprehensive case descriptions in 1849 leading to the eponymous label of Bell's mania. Perhaps the authors should make some mention of this.

2. Kraepelin provided detailed and excellent clinical description in Kraepelin E. Manic-depressive Insanity and Paranoia. Translated Barklay RM. Edited Robertson G M. 1921, Edinburgh, Livingstone. Perhaps this should be added to the reference list.


3. In the discussion, they mention that “antipsychotics and mood stabilizers alone are less effective in controlling the symptoms of delirious mania”. Other authors have stated that antipsychotics may indeed be harmful and exacerbate the clinical condition, and the major treatments appear to be benzodiazepines and ECT. This possibly deserves further comment.
Level of interest: An article of limited interest

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