Reviewer’s report

Title: Screening for Personality Disorder in Incarcerated Adolescent Boys: Preliminary Validation of an Adolescent Version of the Structured Assessment of Personality-Abbreviated Scale (SAPAS-AV)

Version: 2 Date: 5 July 2012

Reviewer: Michael Gerhard Odenwald

Reviewer’s report:

Few researchers ever studied the screening of Personality Disorders among adolescents. This pilot study screened 80 adolescents in secure institutions for PD and validated the screening outcome with the SKID-II. The question was well defined. The methodology of the study has some limitations; this was accurately described and discussed by the authors; they undertake serious efforts to test whether the study results are biased. The data seem to be sound. The statistical analysis of the data is excellent as well as the reporting of results. The discussion and conclusions are well balanced. The abstract and title describe accurately the study. The writing is ok.

In sum, I liked the manuscript; the study raises – despite of its limitations - a lot of important points, stimulates further thoughts and deserved to be published.

I only found minor points to be commented on (all discretionary):

1. Short information on reliability and validity of the other instruments used would strengthen the study.
2. A comment on honesty of answers in this group might be helpful.
3. Were the participants informed about the topic of the study before decision upon participation? Were the results of the assessment made known to staff of secure institutions. What were possible consequences?

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