Reviewer's report

Title: Body mass index and quality of life among outpatients with schizophrenia in Japan

Version: 1 Date: 29 December 2012

Reviewer: Davy Vancampfort

Reviewer's report:

Overall
The subject is of topical interest and the paper is generally well written. The paper has however some grammatical errors and the written English requires attention, e.g. 1st sentence of the 1st paragraph and 2nd sentence of the 3rd paragraph of the introduction.

Major Compulsory Revisions
Methods
Please add data related to the validity of the SF-36v2 in patients with schizophrenia. If these data do not exist, this should be mentioned as a limitation of your study.

Results
Could you specify in which direction the physical functioning role and PCS score were significantly associated with gender?

Discussion
• I do believe that the authors should emphasize more that they did not include the physical activity participation level of their patients. It is known that not only BMI but also physical activity during leisure time is a significant independent predictor for physical HRQL in patients with schizophrenia. See: Vancampfort D, Probst M, Scheewe T, Maurissen K, Sweers K, Knapen J, De Hert M. Lack of physical activity during leisure time contributes to an impaired health related quality of life in patients with schizophrenia. Schizophr Res 2011, 139(2-3):122-127.

• Another limitation which should be mentioned is the lack of data on socio-economic status which also in patients with schizophrenia might also be related to obesity and lifestyle; See e.g.: Vancampfort D, Knapen J, Probst M, Scheewe T, Remans S, De Hert M: A systematic review of correlates of physical activity in patients with schizophrenia. Acta Psychiatr Scand 2012, 125(5):352-362.

Discretionary Revisions
Methods
• Please, briefly define DSM-IV criteria, the first time it appears.
•Who made the diagnoses? Please, specify.

Results
I do believe that the following is redundant: “We observed significant differences with regard to weight between healthy weight and overweight patients, overweight and obese patients, and healthy weight and obese patients.”

Discussion

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

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'