Reviewer’s report

Title: Altered cardiac autonomic nervous function in depression

Version: 3 Date: 24 June 2013

Reviewer: Jess Fiedorowicz

Reviewer’s report:

Major Compulsory Revisions

Minor Essential Revisions

1) The following exclusion criteria is not clear: Patients exhibiting a normal sinus rhythm without acute myocardial infarction according to ECG testing. Do the authors intend this to be listed with exclusion criteria? The inclusion criteria of normal sinus rhythm would seem to conflict with some of the reporting on arrhythmias. Presumably this reflects the difference between an initial 12-lead and the 24 hour monitoring, but would be helpful if made explicit for the reader.

2) The following sentence from the discussion will require rewording for clarity: Different design [37], therefore a reduced comparability across studies and explain some of the inconsistencies across studies.

Discretionary Revisions

1) Abstract, Results. Please remove comma before first sentence. Also after first sentence of Background.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

'I declare that I have no competing interests