Author's response to reviews

Title: Pharmacotherapy for Bipolar Disorder and concordance with treatment guideline: survey of a general population sample referred to a tertiary care service.

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Author's response to reviews: see over
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Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the second revision of the paper “Pharmacotherapy for Bipolar Disorder and concordance with treatment guideline: survey of a general population sample referred to a tertiary care service”.
You will find enclosed the description of the changes made in the paper.

Sincerely yours,

Dr S. Paterniti

Changes:

1) As suggested by Dr. Bauer, the following paragraph was moved from the section Discussion (pag. 15) to the section Methods (pag. 8):

“CANMAT guidelines include first, second, and third line recommendations, where second and third line recommendations should be used when the first line are not effective, or not tolerated, or not indicated for other reasons. A systematic longitudinal pharmacological history of every patient was not available, so we could not verify if patients treated with second or third line treatments had already been prescribed with a treatment following a first line recommendation. However, our sample included patients referred to a tertiary care structure and the selection process of the sample included the criteria of having a resistant-to-treatment, or chronic, severe and highly recurrent disorder. In these cases, it is likely that the patients had already been prescribed with at least a first line treatment. For this reason, we considered second and third line treatments as concordant to guidelines.”

2) The following paragraph was added (pag 15), to describe the CANMAT recommendations and availability in Canada of aripiprazole and ziprasidone:

“In our sample, no bipolar patients were prescribed with aripiprazole or ziprasidone, although CANMAT guidelines specifically recommended the two atypical antipsychotics in the treatment of BD-I since 2005 [16]. This can be due to the fact that Health Canada approved their use in the treatment of Bipolar disorder only in 2009. “

3) We added a right-hand column with the row totals on tables 4 & 5.