Reviewer's report

Title: Schizotypy and personality profiles of Cluster A in a group of schizophrenic patients and their siblings

Version: 2 Date: 21 July 2013

Reviewer: Raffaele Popolo

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Major Compulsory Revisions

Background

• Can you describe better the common genetic basis of personality traits and schizophrenia?
• Can you give some examples of "schizophrenia-like" traits?
• "... for a better understanding of the underlying disease": which disorder do you refer? In what manner the identification of subthreshold symptoms may helping to understand this underlying disease? Can you explain the reference model? The schizotypy is an "indicator of risk to develop schizophrenia or psychosis" or a distinct clinical picture?
• "These personality traits That distinguish the relatives ...": this expression is too general; not all relatives of schizophrenic patients have these traits that we also found in individuals with no familiarity with psychotic disorders.
• Do you can better explain the multidimensional nature of schizotypy?
• "Subsequent investigations have confirmed that patients with Schizotypal ..." Can you explain the transition from schizotypy to the categorical diagnosis of personality disorder? Do you consider them as overlapping concepts?
• "These tools are also ..." Do you give some examples?
• Can you define better the hypothesis of the work according to the article? Have you also the objective of evaluating the effectiveness of different assessment tools?
• "The originality of this study ..." Can you explain this better? What are the differences between the instruments mentioned? Why did you choose this instrument?

Participants

• Can you give some general informations on symptom severity and social functioning of patients?
• Did some patient take first-generation antipsychotics?
• These two points make reference to factors which may influence the behavioral expression and relationship of the patient.
Procedures
• "... three clinical interviews .." Can you give a brief description of these interviews?

Discussion
• I would start taking the objectives of the study. I’d move the initial comments on the instruments in the final part; these are in fact reflections on research methodology that can be useful to be able to introduce you to a brief description of the dimensional model underlying the entire work.
• In the point 1 I’d distinguish between the two comparisons for clarity.
• "Based on data presented ..." conclusions must be more detailed. Then, do the schizotypal traits include the three cluster C disorders? You should indicate this in the introduction. How do you explain the results with reference to the PDM? What can you say about the underlying disorder?

**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' below.