Reviewer's report

Title: Clinical characteristics in schizophrenia spectrum disorder patients with or without suicide attempts and non-suicidal self-harm - a cross-sectional study

Version: 2 Date: 20 June 2013

Reviewer: Graham Pluck

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Minor Essential Revisions
1. I previously recommended that some planned contrasts / post-hoc comparisons be reported in tables 1 and 2. The authors have seemingly done this. The tables now have a final column that includes some information on which groups differed from which groups. However, I feel this could still be made clearer. I assume that where, for example, you have put 1<3, this means that group 1 was significantly lower than group 2 at the p=.05 level. If so, something should be added to the tables to provide some information to the reader to confirm this. Perhaps a footnote to say that these are the post hoc comparisons that were statistically significant. Alternatively, you could add *, **, *** etc to each paired comparison.

Discretionary Revisions
2. Page 6, the SCID-I should be referenced
3. Page 10, last part of the paragraph, 'Current symptoms and behaviors', I note that two of the chi2 calculations have identical values (x2=0.3, DF=1, p=0.583). This may be a coincidence but it is worth checking in case an error has been made.
4. Page 12, 11th line, 'were' not 'was'.

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