Reviewer's report

Title: Plasma brain-derived neurotrophic factor levels, learning capacity and cognition in patients with first episode psychosis

Version: 1 Date: 3 December 2012

Reviewer: Marcella Bellani

Reviewer's report:

Minor essential revisions

the blood collection methodology should be better explained, it is my understanding that the sample and the methods for blood collection are the same as in the article by Palomino A, Vallejo-Illarramendi A, et al( Schizophr Res. 2006 Sep;86(1-3):321-2.Decreased levels of plasma BDNF in first-episode schizophrenia and bipolar disorder patients.) but the blood collection was done 4 times and not for 2 times as described in the current article.

some typos should be amended

I had some problem with the discussion.. many correlations are described but not completely discussed. the possible role of biological marker of cognition is not sustained completely by results. the effect of medications has been discussed but again it seems not to be completely linked to the main idea of the discussion.

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:

'I declare that I have no competing interests' below.