Reviewer's report

**Title:** A double-blind, randomized, placebo-controlled study assessing the efficacy and tolerability of desvenlafaxine 10 and 50 mg/d in adult outpatients with major depressive disorder

**Version:** 1 **Date:** 30 October 2012

**Reviewer:** XinMin Li

**Reviewer’s report:**

Good design and carried out clinical study, with a negative results, which are as important as positive results sometimes.

However, as stated in the manuscript, a companion study comparing low-dose desvenlafaxine (25 mg/day) and desvenlafaxine (50 mg/day) with placebo did support the clinical superiority of desvenlafaxine 50 mg/day over placebo, and found no significant improvement with 25 mg/day in either observer- or patient-rated measures [13].

The data from the companion study in concert with the findings obtained in the current study suggest that desvenlafaxine is not effective at doses lower than 50 mg/day.

To strengthen the clinical impact, it will be much desirable to publish these two trials together as one report.

**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’