Reviewer's report

Title: Patterns of childhood adverse events are associated with clinical characteristics of bipolar disorder

Version: 2 Date: 23 March 2012

Reviewer: Sadik Khuder

Reviewer's report:

Interesting paper addressing a well defined question about the relationship between childhood trauma and bipolar disorder. The study is well designed and analyzed properly. The discussion and conclusions are well balanced and adequately supported by the data.

Major
1. Authors need to justify not using a control group
2. This is not a large study and this point needs to be acknowledged in the limitations

Minor
1. Introduction: Move the second paragraph on page 5 to methods
2. Results
   A. The first paragraph on page 10 – Check the interpretation of HR for CTQ total score and E-R factor score.
   B. The second paragraph on page 10 – Check the interpretation of HR for CTQ total score and E-R or PH-R scores.

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.