Author's response to reviews

Title: Clozapine: a review of clinical practice guidelines and prescribing trends

Authors:

Stephanie Warnez (umwarnez@cc.umanitoba.ca)
Silvia Alessi-Severini (Silvia.Alessi-Severini@umanitoba.ca)

Version: 3
Date: 23 March 2014

Author's response to reviews: see over
March 12, 2014

Dear Dr. Murray,

Please consider the revised manuscript entitled: “Clozapine: a review of clinical practice guidelines and prescribing trends” by Stephanie Warnez and Silvia Alessi-Severini for publication in BMC Psychiatry.

We have appreciated all the insightful comments of the reviewers; we have modified the article according to their suggestions. Please find attached the detailed response to each reviewer’s comments.

As recognized by our reviewers, the article would be of interests to health care providers in understanding prescribing trends and benefits of an effective agent currently still underutilized.

Thank you for your attention in this matter. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

Silvia Alessi-Severini Ph. D.
Assistant Professor
Phone: (204) 474-9229
Reviewer's report

Title: Clozapine: a review of clinical practice guidelines and prescribing trends

Version: 2 Date: 22 February 2014

Reviewer: Jessica Goren

Reviewer's report:

• Major Compulsory Revisions:
  None the authors have done a nice job responding to comments, streamlining the paper and clarification

• Minor Essential Revisions
  Minor grammar errors exist
  The paper has been carefully proofread and corrections have been made were appropriate. SW is a native English speaker.

• Discretionary Revisions
  Consider changing the table of guideline recommendations to more of a grid so one can easily compare which guidelines have what requirements (example below-just to give you an idea not necessarily accurate)

Failed 2 trials suicidal aggressive TMAP X APA X X
  Modified as suggested. See table.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be
seen by a statistician. **Declaration of competing interests:** none

**Reviewer's report**

**Title:** Clozapine: a review of clinical practice guidelines and prescribing trends

**Version:** 2  **Date:** 16 February 2014

**Reviewer:** Maarten Bak

**Reviewer's report:**

Very much improved. The aim and scope of this study has been improved substantially. The take home message is clear and the literature supports the conclusion clearly.

**Major None**

**Minor**

1. In the introduction it is stated that the SGA are superior to the FGA’s. Referenced is to papers of Correl en Leucht. Both papers discuss efficacy on adverse effects. Both authors both have shown also that the efficacy of SGA above FGA’s is doubtful in terms is of treatment of positive symptoms and negative symptoms. Only clozapine is superior, that is true.

The references have been rearranged to cite at this point (pg. 3, second paragraph) two meta-analyses that reported on early studies where SGAs superiority was claimed in some of the outcomes mentioned.

2. The references are not uniform according the BMC guidelines.
References have been revised for format and corrected to comply with the journal guidelines.

**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'