Reviewers report

Title: Olanzapine is superior to lamotrigine in the prevention of bipolar depression: a naturalistic observational study

Version: 1  Date: 5 February 2014

Reviewer: Emanuel Severus

Reviewers report:

Major Compulsory Revisions:
This a naturalistic observational study comparing the effectiveness of olanzapine with lamotrigine in the prophylactic treatment of bipolar disorders. As this is a non-randomized study differences in outcome may be due to differences in the patient populations being assigned to lamotrigine or olanzapine before the beginning of the study. And indeed, patients assigned to lamotrigine were more likely to suffer from bipolar-II disorder and being treated with antidepressants - both are known to influence the course of the illness. However, unless the authors control for these potential confounders, little, unfortunately, can be concluded from their results.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

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

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

Declaration of competing interests:

During the past 5 years have been on the speakership bureaus of AstraZeneca, Eli Lilly and Company, Lundbeck and Servier.