Reviewer's report

Title: Association of acute phase response proteins with ovarian hormone levels and antidepressant medication in perimenopausal depression

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Reviewer: Hans Koppeschaar

Reviewer's report:

Based on the data presented and, not in the least, the conclusion of the authors the title of the manuscript is not appropriate; it should be "Lack of.........."); also LH and FSH are pituitary (not ovarian) hormones.

But more important, perimenopausal-depression not being identified as a clinical entity makes the characteristics (of the inclusion-data) of the subjects fuzzy, and by that the (negative)results of this study difficult to interpret. The 39 subjects included in the group "women with depression" are heterogeneous; 19 had a history and depressive episodes in the past, and are classified as resistant to antidepressive therapy. Thus, only the remaining 17 subjects are to be regarded as "really" perimenopausal-depressive subjects. Pertinent data for these subgroups and for the women without depression (FSH,LH,E2. cycle irregularity/amenorrhoea) should be given and analyzed for those with a history of depression vs those with a first perimenopausal-associated episode of depression.

Tables 2-8 are redundant.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

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