Reviewer's report

Title: Health-related quality of life among patients treated with lurasidone: results from a switch trial in patients with schizophrenia.

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Reviewer: Lakshmi N.P. Voruganti

Reviewer's report:

Health-Related Quality of Life among Patients Treated with Lurasidone: Results from a switch trial in patients with schizophrenia
A. George Awad, Mariam Hassan, Antony Loebel et al

General comments:
The paper represents an important contribution on an under-researched but clinically significant area of research. There are no major deficiencies in the study design, data gathering, analysis or ethical aspects.
The strengths of the paper include:
1. Analysing post-marketing data which is often neglected of research pharmaceutical firms
2. Representative sample that included a significant number of women.
3. Concomitant use of two standardized outcome measures that enhanced the validity of results
4. Explored clinically relevant themes such as “sedating vs non-sedating” antipsychotics drugs, which is, again, an undervalued theme.

The following comments indicate discretionary revisions that enhance the quality of paper:
Besides the short-comings already identified in the paper, the following aspects may warrant some revisions:
1. The distinction between race and ethnicity tabulated in table 1. (page. 23) may not enhance the value of results. This reviewer appreciates the predominance of “Hispanic” populations in some US cities and its potential service implications. However, the international readers may not be able to understand the relevance unless a clear explanation, if any, is provided.
2. The word “antecedent non-sedating antipsychotic” (page 9, para. 1.) sounds very foreign to clinicians. The authors used the term “pre-switch” medication in another instance. It is important to be consistent and avoid jargon.
3. The authors have failed to mention the critical variable “subjective tolerability” which is known to mediate the adherence and quality of life outcomes. This would be relevant in the discussion on sedating antipsychotics (page 13).
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’