Reviewer's report

Title: Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and productivity of schizophrenia trials: an ecological study.

Version: 1 Date: 28 October 2003

Reviewer: Stefan Leucht

Reviewer's report:

General
This is a well-conceived analysis and a clearly written report. The results are provocative and of interest, e.g. to encourage some rich countries to provide more financial support for randomised controlled trials. The main limitations of the analysis are clearly described and discussed by the authors: the current impossibility to exclude the possibility of double publication with absolute certainty and the possibility that the register is more complete e.g. for American and English studies than for e.g. Chinese or Russian studies, although I know that enormous efforts are made to search for other languages than English. The statistical approach seems to be sound and is explained in detail.

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

Minor Compulsory Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)
In the pdf-version that was sent to me there was no abstract (probably just a problem of the production of the manuscript).

Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

What next?: Accept after minor compulsory revisions

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No

Declaration of competing interests:
I have a certain conflict of interest, because I am a member of the Cochrane schizophrenia group and in this function I collaborate with some of the authors. I, however, think that if this were not the case I would come up with the same positive evaluation.