Reviewer's report

Title: Seasonal changes, sleep length and circadian preference among twins with bipolar disorder

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Reviewer: ANA ADAN

Level of interest: A paper of considerable general medical or scientific interest

Advice on publication: Accept after discretionary revisions

1. Comments

The paper analyses in twins with bipolar disorders and their healthy co-twins the seasonal variations of mood, behaviour and hospital admissions, and the circadian type. The work deserves to be published because it is the first study with this approach. I had only two comments (see compulsory revisions) in relation to circadian type assessment and the role that could play the latitude in the results obtained.

a) Discretionary revisions

- In the abstract authors pointed out that "twins born from 1940 to 1957 were screened", and in the methods section that "... to locate twins born between 1940 and 1969" (this information could be delete or rewritten for the definite twins studied).

- The FTCQ at the first time (page 6, par. 2) appears in the text without complete denomination.

b) Compulsory revisions

- Latitude is a physical environmental factor that influences the prevalence of mood disorders and the seasonality of mood. The authors may be point it also as a limitation (abstract and discussion) to extend the results at all latitudes.

- The assessment of morningness-eveningness preference (Figure 1) may be more specified in the methods and results sections. For example, data presented in Figure 1 were collected from the FCTQ question or from MEQ?. I tend to feel that the first is the right.

- Sex differences in circadian typology were no obtained, probably due to the reduced number of subjects. A comment about other positive results recently published with bigger samples and the

**Competing interests:**

None declared.