Reviewer's report

Title: Ritanserin as an adjunct to lithium and haloperidol for the treatment of acute episodes of mania: a double blind and placebo controlled trial

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Version: 4 Date: 12 Jun 2003

Reviewer: Nassir Ghaemi

Level of interest: not specified

Advice on publication: Other (see below)

I have reviewed the reply to authors and the paper. Generally, it looks satisfactory with one further request. In response 3, the authors state that most patients entered the study untreated with any medication. However, this is not stated anywhere in the paper.

I thus request the following:

1. The title be changed to Ritanserin as an adjunct to lithium and haloperidol for the treatment of medication-naive patients with acute mania: a double-blind, placebo-controlled trial.

2. It be stated in the methods section of the abstract that most of these patients entered the hospital untreated with any medications.

3. It be stated in the methods section of the text that most of these patients entered the hospital untreated with any medications. Further, if possible, the authors should identify the exact percent of patients who entered the study untreated. And for those who entered the study on other medications, which ones should be identified by percent, if this is accessible now to the authors. For those who entered the study on other medications, the authors should state how those medications were stopped, i.e., a description of a washout duration would be warranted.

These are my final comments. I think we just need to emphasize that these were non-refractory medication-naive patients in the methods section more clearly.

Competing interests:

None declared.