Reviewer's report

Title: Three year naturalistic outcome study of panic disorder patients treated with paroxetine

Version: 1 Date: 23 December 2003

Reviewer: G Perugi

Reviewer's report:

General
The manuscript focuses on the naturalistic long-term follow-up of 143 panic disorder patients treated with paroxetine. The topic is both relevant for the field and appropriate for the Journal. The methodology is well described and at a satisfactory high level. However, the manuscript shows several minor inaccuracies that should be removed and it might profit from a few modifications.

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)
In the method, it should be specified whether or not all patients gave their informed consent for the participation to the study.
Anova and Anova with repeated measures are mentioned among the statistics but have not been utilized for the analyses reported in the present manuscript.
In order to increase the clarity and completeness of the data reported, percentages, t and chi-square values should be added in the tables.

Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)
In the abstract and in the conclusions, the non-randomization of the two subsamples of patients treated for 12 and 24 months should be explicitly mentioned, as a major limitation of the study.

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No

Declaration of competing interests:
None