Reviewer's report

Title: Thyroid Function in Clinical Subtypes of Major Depression

Version: 1 Date: 30 September 2003

Reviewer: Franco Benazzi

Reviewer's report:

General
Interesting paper, important findings.

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)
xxxxxxx

Minor Compulsory Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)
xxxxxxx

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

Introduction.
Please specify if unipolar or bipolar depression is the topic, it is unipolar MDD in the methods.

Methods.
Given the small N of MDD, I would suggest not to split analyses according to subtypes.

Statistics: OK.

Results.
I would suggest not to split analyses according to MDD subtypes.

Discussion.
I would suggest to compact a lot, and to focus only on the main findings, which may have treatment impact.
Given the small sample, I would stress the preliminary nature of the findings, needing replication in much larger samples.
I would suggest to make only 2-3 tables, without subdividing results according to MDD subtypes.

However, even if the sample is small, findings may open the way to larger studies increasing our insight into the relationship between thyroid and depression and treatment response.
References.

I would suggest to reduce by 50%.

Advice on publication: Accept after minor compulsory revisions

Level of interest: A paper whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Declaration of competing interests:

None