Reviewer's report

Title: Bright Light Treatment of Depression for Older Adults ISRCTN55452501

Version: 1 Date: 14 July 2005

Reviewer: Alfred J Lewy

Reviewer's report:

General

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

None.

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

It is admirable to see negative results published, even if they are disappointing from a clinician's perspective. The manuscript is carefully written. There are probably several ways in which the data could be further analyzed, for example, using the phase angle difference between the melatonin markers and the sleep/wake cycle, but this could be done in a follow-up publication. I would suggest that the authors clarify in the abstract that the 16% overall improvement is found in the placebo group as well; given this, they might suggest what sort of further study would next be most useful.

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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

None.

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No

Declaration of competing interests:

I am co-inventor on several melatonin use-patents owned by my university and currently not licensed to any company.