Reviewer's report

Title: Metabolic risk factors profile associated with use of second generation antipsychotics: a cross-sectional study in a community mental health centre

Version: 1 Date: 20 October 2005

Reviewer: Paul Mackin

Reviewer's report:

General

This study addresses an important and topical issue, but adds little to the already published data. As the authors themselves acknowledge, the relatively small sample size, and cross-sectional design are significant limitations, as is the effect of previous antipsychotic treatment.

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

1. Information should be given about other non-psychotropic drugs that may also affect glucose homestasis/lipids (e.g. thiazides/b-blockers/statins, etc)

2. Triglyceride data is unlikely to be normally distributed, and therefore data should be log transformed, and presented as median (rather than mean).

3. How was fasting status confirmed?

4. The reference group is significantly younger than the patient group. How might this have affected the results (particularly with regard to metabolic parameters)?

5. Table 1. Numbers of subjects are given in the first row, but these do not match with the numbers given under psychiatric diagnosis

6. Doses of antipsychotics are lower than are conventionally prescribed. How may this have influenced the results?

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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)

There are multiple grammatical errors throughout the manuscript.

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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

The authors may wish to discuss the recent CATIE trial metabolic data.

What next?: Unable to decide on acceptance or rejection until the authors have responded to the major compulsory revisions
Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: No

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests