Reviewer’s report

Title: Insomnia in school-age children with Asperger syndrome or high-functioning autism.

Version: 1 Date: 25 January 2006

Reviewer: Pekka Tani

Reviewer’s report:

General
This is a well-conducted study on subjects notoriously difficult to study. It increases our knowledge in this grossly underreported area. It deserves to be published after some revisions.

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

Measures: I, as an adult psychiatrist, wonder how old a child has to be before one can ask him/her to fill in questionnaires concerning sleep quality. Otherwise the method for defining insomnia seems sound and valid.

Definition and assessment of insomnia (page 9): study results should not be given here, they are shown in Results-section.

Recent sleep measures (page 11): were the actigraphic sleep parameters averaged for each subject and then grouped together for statistical comparison? This is the standard procedure.

Statistical analysis (page 12): why is it necessary to control the actigraphic analysis for age of the child in logistic regression? What is meant by the “set of actigraph”?

Discussion is good indeed, especially the chapter “Previous research has pointed to a need...” One could discuss the limitations of actigraphic assessment, however, although in this study the sleep diary information coincided well with the actigraphic one.

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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)

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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

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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 importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests