Reviewer's report

Title: Web-based tools can be used reliably to detect patients with major depressive disorder and subsyndromal depressive symptoms

Version: 3 Date: 12 October 2006

Reviewer: Konstantinos Fountoulakis

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Web-based tools can be used reliably to detect patients with major depressive disorder and subsyndromal depressive symptoms, by Chao-Cheng Lin

Dear sir

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to review this very interesting paper. I have the following comments to make:

Abstract: the authors do not mention the composition of the sample in terms of diagnosis

Results: I can not understand how many subjects were diagnosed as suffering from specific types of depression. Sensitivity and specificity should be given for specific cut-off points on the basis of ROC curves

1. Is the question posed by the authors new and well defined? YES
2. Are the methods appropriate and well described, and are sufficient details provided to replicate the work? YES
3. Are the data sound and well controlled? YES
4. Does the manuscript adhere to the relevant standards for reporting and data deposition? YES
5. Are the discussion and conclusions well balanced and adequately supported by the data? YES
6. Do the title and abstract accurately convey what has been found? YES
7. Is the writing acceptable? YES

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:

'I declare that I have no competing interests'