Reviewer's report

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

Version: 4 Date: 3 March 2007
Reviewer: Toshiaki A Furukawa

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)

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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)
1) What are MinD and SDD? They are not in official DSM-IV and the authors need to define them in their manuscript.
2) Because the MDD, MinD and SDD are in rank order, they should be expressing their overall reliability in terms of weighted or generalized kappa. Separate kappas for each category, as in Table 2, are not appropriate.

What next?: Accept after discretionary revisions

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

I have received research funds and speaking fees from Asahi Kasei, Astellas, Dai-Nippon, Eisai, Eli Lilly, GlaxoSmithKline, Janssen, Kyowa Hakko, Meiji, Organon, Pfizer, Tsumura, Yoshitomi, and Zelia. The Japanese Ministry of Education, Science, and Technology and the Japanese Ministry of Health Labor and Welfare have also funded his research.