Reviewer's report

Title: A prospective study of monitoring practices for metabolic disease in antipsychotic-treated community psychiatric patients

Version: 1 Date: 26 March 2007
Reviewer: Jean-Pierre Lindenmayer

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)
Selection process of patients is unclear.

The authors refer to the inclusion/exclusion criteria of their previous study, however, for uninformed readers this is not enough. We need to know how representative this sample is of a typical outpatient sample with SMI.
Glucose levels should also be indicated in mg/dl.
It is not clear what determined the exact timing of the f/up assessments and when they were conducted and how often. This should be described in is section. How come there is no data on BP, which is a major part of the metabolic syndrome?

Results:
Typo: Insulin resistance was “higher”; should be probably lower. How many patients were considered to have metabolic syndrome?

Monitoring:
While many values were elevated at baseline and remained elevated at f/u, some did not change. In particular, Hb1Ac was WNL; one would wonder whether there were outliers whose glucose levels had gotten significantly worse?

Discussion:
This section should be significantly shortened in view of the already abundant literature the authors refer to.

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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

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, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.
Declaration of competing interests:
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Consultant for Lilly, Janssen