Reviewer's report

Title: The Management of Bipolar Mania: a national survey of Baseline data from the EMBLEM study in Italy

Version: Date: 2 Date: 4 January 2007

Reviewer: George Kirov

Reviewer's report:

General
The paper gives a good idea about prescribing practices for bipolar disorder in Italy, with the data being limited to the baseline statistics.

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

Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)
I found the Abstract not informative enough: I feel that giving some details on the medications used prior to inclusion would be more relevant than the scores on YMRS and CGI. These give me no information about the treatment of mania in Italy and they would depend on the setting where patients are recruited, making these statistics of no interest. The types of medications used and combined therapies are the more useful part of this paper and should figure in the abstract.
On p12 there appear to be 2 mistakes: 36 patients with TCA is not 65.8%, perhaps it is 6.58%. Later on the same page reads: "Benzodiazepines were taken prior to baseline by 379 patients (69.3%) and were then prescribed in 379 (59.2%)". Presumably one of these figures is wrong.

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:
I declare that I have no competing interests