Reviewer’s report

Title: Auditory target processing in methadone substituted opiate addicts. The effect of nicotine in controls.

Version: 1 Date: 4 June 2007

Reviewer: Georg Winterer

Reviewer’s report:

General

This is an interesting study on the event-related potential P300 and drug-abuse. The study is of particular interest because extensive clinical characterization concerning drug-abuse was conducted in a standardized clinical protocol. The information presented is precise and complete. The introduction and discussion are sound and mostly adequate.

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

None

Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

A few issues should be addressed:

a) Please check for minor language errors and try to cut on redundancies in order to shorten the paper

b) You need to give information on the smoking status of the methadone patients. How does smoking in these patients affect P300 within the patient sample and in comparison to the controls

c) Discuss that reduced P300 amplitude may antedate nicotine-consumption and that nicotine consume may reflect "self-edication"

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

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