Reviewer's report

Title: Suicidal ideation and associated factors among school-going adolescents in rural Uganda

Version: 2 Date: 30 May 2007

Reviewer: Gustavo Turecki

Reviewer's report:

This paper covers an important subject of public health concern. The paper should be revised in order to improve the quality of the English-language.

Major Compulsory Revisions:
I would like to point out below major issues that can be addressed by the authors. I think that it might improve the overall quality of the paper:

RESULTS:
Numbers presented in Table 1 should be revised: the total number of subjects is not equal to the sum of girls and boys? Males n=784; girls n=676; total should be: 1460; there are 46 missing cases? There is no mention of this into the text.

Therefore, the exact percentages about subjects who seriously considered committing suicide within 12 months are not consistent across abstract, Table 1 and discussion section.

METHODS:
There is no mention about Ethic Review Board? Did participants fill a consent form? If so, it should be added to the method section.

INTRODUCTION AND DISCUSSION SECTIONS:
I would recommend adding recent references to your paper.
• I suggest that you read the Practice Parameters for the assessment and treatment of children and adolescents with suicidal behaviours, from the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Association, 2000 (www.aacap.org).

• I also suggest that you add this paper entitled: Proximal Psychiatric Risk Factors for suicidality in youth. Arch Gen Psychiatry, Foley et al., 2006.

• Even before talking about the antidepressant effects on suicidal behaviours, it would be important to cite the main psychiatric risk factors associated with suicidal behaviours like Major Depression, Anxiety disorders, Disruptive disorders, Substance abuse disorder, etc... Also, in addition to bullying, it would have been beneficial to cite other adverse and stressful life events, like sexual/physical abuse, poverty, etc... Those factors are enumerated in the two previous papers as well.

• Finally, it would be of interest for the reader to mention the exact prevalence of the urban Uganda study in the discussion section.

What next?: Unable to decide on acceptance or rejection until the authors have responded to the major compulsory revisions

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests' below. If your reply is yes to any, please give details below.