Reviewer's report

Title: Reliability and validity of the Thai version of the PHQ-9

Version: 1 Date: 22 November 2007

Reviewer: Abiodun Adewuya

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)

Background
--not enough argument for the use and validation of PHQ-9. The authors should talk about the brevity of the instrument and its strict adherence to DSM-IV criteria for depression. The age mentioned may not be so convincing since older instruments like BDI now have BDI 2 etc.
--What is the point in screening when there is no programme and infrastructure in place for treatment?. The authors need to marshall their points very well

Methods
--What is the time frame of the study?, Years?
--"...first of 5 consecutive patients invited...".. how then was 1000 cases selected?, from 5000 patients?
--How was the random assesments made
--translational method not well explained
--How different was the randomly selected 300 from the rest?
--in what language was MINI administered?, if the PHQ-9 was in Thai, why not the MINI?
-- the limitations of the MINI was not discussed, it is really a highly structured instrument that it may even be seen as a screening instrument instead of a diagnostic instrument

Results
--What of mild depression -- the criteria by DSM-IV should be discussed

Reference
--I think Adewuya et al (2007) published in Journal of affective Disorder should be a useful addition tpto the reference list
Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

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

**Level of interest:** An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

**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