Reviewer's report

Title: Treatment of chronic insomnia in patients abusing hypnotics of 3rd generation

Version: 1 Date: 18 December 2007

Reviewer: Borge Sivertsen

Reviewer's report:

The authors have done a commendable cob conducting this treatment study, but there are major issues that I consider as large obstacles for publication for the present manuscript.

First, the introduction is extremely brief, with only 2 references. The is a large body of evidence, eg. by Charles Morin and others that have studies discontinuation of hypnotics extensively, and I am very puzzled why these are not mentioned at all. I also feel that the methods section should be extensively extended. Most importantly, how were the hypnotics discontinued, as this is very important for the outcome. Some of the results from the treatment study itself is quite interesting, with vast improvements is eg. deep sleep (from 112 to 175 min!), which is much higher than I have ever seen before. What I also feel a bit puzzled about is the much larger improvements in the patients who withdrew from the sleep medication, and this warrants a much better discussion that what the authors provides.

In general, I am sorry to say that I feel the manuscript was submitted a bit prematurely ## all parts of the paper should be significantly rewritten to reflect the current state of the literature, and to also enable the reader to know exactly what the investigators really did. But again, a very interesting treatment study, which I would love to see more results from.

What next?: Reject because scientifically unsound

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

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