Reviewer's report

Title: Bipolar Disorder and Dopamine Dysfunction: An Indirect Approach Focusing on Tardive Movement Syndromes in a naturalistic setting

Version: 1 Date: 22 February 2009

Reviewer: Jack J Chen

Reviewer's report:

This is a nicely written report that provides hypothesis generating data/results. Although complex, the methodology and analyses were well explained.

Recommendations:

1. Authors need to clearly discuss the interaction or confounding effect of increasing severity of BD and drug therapy [e.g., antipsychotic dose, use of lithium augmentation]. It is well known that higher doses of antipsychotics and adjunctive lithium are associated with greater risk of TDD. Therefore, subjects with more severe BD tend to be treated with greater AP dose burden or lithium augmentation and thus experience more TDD. Thus greater TDD may be artifact of AP dose burden rather than BD severity. Need to discuss and clarify.

2. Authors should provide insight into reduced incidence of TDD over time. How does it concordant or discordant with their dopamine hypothesis? Perhaps due to improved BD control? Speculative but how might improved BD correlate with hypothesis of TDD and dopamine regulation.

3. Copyedit issue. Grammar, eg., "enrolment" should be "enrollment"

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.