Reviewer’s report

Title: Bone mass in schizophrenia and normal populations across different decades of life

Version: 4 Date: 7 November 2008

Reviewer: Chittaranjan Andrade

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Minor essential revisions:

Introduction: prevalence of nontraumatic fractures in schizophrenia is across what period? Is it lifetime prevalence?

The sampling of community controls is still not clear. Obviously, there must have been more than 405 healthy persons in the district; so, how were these 405 subjects identified and recruited? If this was a convenience sample, it should be stated as such, and the possibility of bias should be admitted. If the sample was formed from volunteers, the bias is likely to be even greater.

Readers may benefit from a figure which shows the BUA curves for male and female subjects in patient and control categories across different age groups. This figure can replace Fig 1 in the revised manuscript.

As pointed out earlier, 'prolactinemia' is an incorrect term; 'hyperprolactinemia' is correct.

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:

No change as of the previous declaration.