Reviewer's report

Title: A retrospective claims analysis of combination therapy in the treatment of adult attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD)

Version: 3 Date: 23 January 2009

Reviewer: Michael C Monuteaux

Reviewer's report:

This is a revised manuscript examining patterns of pharmacotherapy for ADHD in adults. The following concerns were noted:

Minor Essential Revisions

1. In the Methods section, can the authors provide, out of the 2,041,434 patients with an ADHD diagnosis, what percentage had a prescription for an ADHD drug?

2. For the predictors that differed in statistical significance between LAS and ATX (e.g. having a hyperactive component to ADHD), can the authors provide a statistical test of this difference? For instance, they could test a model with monotherapy versus combination therapy as the outcome, predicted as a function of medication type (LAS versus ATX), hyperactivity status, and the medication type-by-hyperactivity status interaction. This interaction term would specifically test whether the association between hyperactivity and the odds of combination therapy differed significantly by medication type.

3. In the Discussion section, the authors provide useful examples of the risks associated with stimulant treatments (i.e., abuse potential, diversion). They should provide a similar statement about the risks associated with ATX treatment.

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

I received an honoraria from Shire, Inc for participation in a symposium in 2007.