Reviewer's report

Title: Efficacy of vitamin C as an adjunct to fluoxetine therapy in pediatric major depressive disorder: a randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled pilot study

Version: 2 Date: 19 December 2012

Reviewer: Margot Gosney

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Minor Essential Revisions

1. This is an interesting pilot study, which unfortunately has several limitations. Whilst issues such as the prevalence and incidence of underlying vitamin C deficiency in both the placebo and active group; the small number of subjects; the short longitudinal study design and the combination of adolescents and children, is mentioned by the authors, they fail to address issues such as the variability of the dosage of fluoxetine and any compliance issues. Having said this, it is an interesting finding and one that has both pharmacological, as well as physiological reasoning behind it.

2. It is known that dietary inadequacies occur in all individuals with depression and therefore vitamin C levels are likely to be reduced in the study population. What would be of interest would be following saturation of the system by vitamin C, whether the response to placebo and active treatment group, resulted in a joining together of the response line.

3. It is likely that 6 months is inadequate for this assessment. I think the findings ask as many questions, if not more than they answer, but provide an interesting platform for further research.

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, Professor Margot Gosney, declare that I have no competing interests.