Reviewers report

Title: Hypersomnia and depressive symptoms: Methodological and clinical aspects

Version: 1 Date: 7 January 2013

Reviewer: David Plante

Reviewers report:

This review is an overview of hypersomnia in depression, with the stated aims of 1) describing hypersomnia assessment methods, 2) defining hypersomnia in mood disorders, and 3) reviewing studies that have examined mood disorder symptoms in hypersomnias of central origin. The topic is a very important area for multiple fields. Attention to the following details would improve the overall quality of the manuscript:

Major Compulsory Revisions
None

Minor Essential Revisions
1. The review would be strengthened if the authors included a brief discussion about potential changes in nosology in the upcoming DSM-5, particularly proposals for Hypersomnia Disorder, given the scope of the review.
2. In the Definition and Assessment of Mood Disorders section (pg. 8); several questionnaires are enumerated to quantify mood symptom severity that are described as “self-report”, however, the list includes both self-report and clinician-administered surveys. Please clarify for the reader which are self-report and which are clinician-administered for readers who may not be familiar with these instruments.
3. The methods described for Ref 54 (Vgontzas et al) in the Objective Assessment of Hypersomnia should be clarified, as in this manuscript the authors excluded patients on psychotropic medication in the final analysis.

Discretionary Revisions
4. To be comprehensive, would consider including in the Objective Assessment of Hypersomnia section the manuscript by Sangal et al, Chest 1992;101;898-902, which also has MSLT/MWT data in depression.
5. To be comprehensive, would also consider including a recent manuscript by Plante et al Psychiatric Res 2012 that examines slow wave activity differences in depression and hypersomnia, given the scope of the review.
6. At the top of page 15 (Narcolepsy with Cataplexy Section), the authors mention animal data regarding the role of orexin in depression-like behavior. The authors could consider including a brief discussion regarding some of the human data regarding CSF orexin in depression, such as articles by Salomon et al Biol...
Psychiatry 2003, Schmidt et al Neuroscience Letters 2010, Schmidt et al Psychiatry Res 2011, and Brundin et al Eur Neuropsychopharmacol 2007. It could be emphasized that the role of orexin in depression segregated by differences in vigilance state/sleepiness has not been evaluated.

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I have no competing financial interests. I have grant funding from the American Sleep Medicine Foundation, the Brain and Behavior Research Foundation, and NIMH (K23MH099234) to study hypersomnia in major depressive disorder.