Reviewer's report

Title: Using sleep and circadian factors to improve clinical management of major depression

Version: 1 Date: 29 September 2012

Reviewer: B Bunney

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1. In Tables 1 and 3, I would suggest moving the references from the left-hand column and putting them after each of the items listed.

2. I would suggest going through the manuscript and adding subheadings to help orient the reader.

3. Recent double-blind studies have suggested that agomelatine is not efficacious. The FDA discontinued its use October 2011. A number of components of the paper need to be modified to reflect this observation.

4. I would suggest adding a section on “Limitations” to the suggested approaches. I would include additional attention to practical evaluations of circadian rhythm abnormalities which can be used by the general practitioner in outpatient settings. In order to personalize treatment, it remains unclear how to reliably estimate whether a patient is phase-advanced, phase-delayed or desynchronized.

5. Suggest adding references after the sentences:
   a. “Selective inhibition studies indicate…”
   b. “Of particular interest to those who work…”
   c. “These include (1) awakening and arising from…”
   d. Suggest adding references throughout the following paragraph:
      i. “These symptoms of circadian disturbances are…”
   e. In paragraph, “Major depression appears…” reference #110 does not appear to be appropriate

6. Sentence starting “It is tempting to postulate…” could be important and deserves further emphasis.

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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

Declaration of competing interests:

No conflict of interest