Reviewer’s report

Title: Towards the implementation of personalized pharmacotherapy for bipolar disorder

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Reviewer: RH Belmaker

Reviewer’s report:

This is a scholarly and extremely well written review about the question of using specific genetic polymorphisms to predict treatment response with lithium and other mood stabilizers and antidepressants in bipolar disorder. It is done by a top group and is highly comprehensive and up to date. The results are all well analyzed and integrated in a way that is highly appropriate for BMC Medicine. It is known to me from the literature and meetings that the Kelsoe group view to the effect that the time for personalized genetic testing to predict treatment response in bipolar disorder is now questioned by other groups. Therefore, it perhaps might be appropriate to have a published commentary or pro and con published with this paper as the authors are identified with their own viewpoint. I do not think that they should be asked to take less clear position and I think the clarity of their position is what makes the article interesting. Perhaps I would quibble about the title since I believe that "personalized pharmacotherapy" can be done on the basis of patient history and clinical variables and not only on the basis of genetic polymorphisms. Therefore, perhaps the title should be "toward the implementation of genetic testing based personalized pharmacotherapy for bipolar disorder".

I have no specific comments for revising this interesting well written and up to date but perhaps controversial and thought provoking manuscript.

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 conflict of interest