Reviewer’s report

Title: Forty-five years of schizophrenia trials in Italy: a survey

Version: 1 Date: 28 November 2011

Reviewer: Markus MK Koesters

Reviewer’s report:

The authors present a well written manuscript describing the characteristics of schizophrenia trials conducted in Italy.

I appreciate the simple methodology in this manuscript, but I would like to rise the following points:

Major Compulsory Revisions

1. It is not clear to me why the authors decided to categorize their continuous data. I think most analyses would be more clear if conducted as regressions, e.g. length of trial and N over time.

2. The discussion reads "... patient selection criteria and outcome assessment have become much more sophisticated. ... it has nevertheless allowed study study of only highly refines groups of people with schizophrenia". Although this is certainly true, it is not clear to me how the data presented supports this regarding the selection criteria.

3. The discussion should address some of the limitations of the paper, e.g. the omission of trials that were multinational. Is it possible that differences between (at least European) countries are not that big in terms of trial conduct?

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.