Reviewer's report

Title: Bright Light in Elderly Subjects with Major Depressive Disorder. A double blind randomised clinical trial using Early Morning Bright Blue Light comparing Dim Red Light Treatment

Version: 1 Date: 15 July 2008

Reviewer: Prathap Tharyan

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1. Will the study design adequately test the hypothesis?
   Yes, the design is adequate and the sample size justified. The hypothesis is also interesting and the effort justified by reference to systematic reviews revealing the need for further trials. Bias in selection, performance and detection is adequately addressed.

2. Are sufficient details provided to allow replication of the work or comparison with related analyses: if not, what is missing?
   Yes

3. Is the planned statistical analysis appropriate?
   There are no details of how data will be analysed apart from the principle of Intention to treat. What primary and secondary analyses will be performed, whether data from the continuous outcome measures would be dichotomised or analysed as continuous measures, would RMANOVA be used etc, etc. What secondary analyses are planned?

4. Is the writing acceptable?
   Would recommend the use of ‘non-seasonal major depression’ in the title.
   The language is adequate but editing for spelling, word spacing and continuity will be needed. Also a reference check- see ref 41 and 42.

Otherwise, this is a good protocol and there are no serious flaws.