Reviewer's report

Title: Psychostimulant prescribing trends in a paediatric population in Ireland: A national cohort study

Version: 3 Date: 23 March 2015

Reviewer: Antonio Clavenna

Reviewer's report:

In my opinion the manuscript is well written, methods are described in an appropriate manner, results are clearly presented and adequately discussed.

I would like to suggest a couple of major revisions regarding the discussion (Page 9, "results in the context of the current literature"): since several drug utilization studies monitoring ADHD prescriptions have been published in the last few years, I suggest to compare your findings with more recent data (than 2000).

In particular, I think it can be useful to compare your results with UK data (McCarthy S, et al. The epidemiology of pharmacologically treated attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) in children, adolescents and adults in UK primary care. BMC Pediatr. 2012;12:78).

Moreover, it seems quite unusual to me to find a greater prevalence in 12-15 years compared to 5-11 years old children. This issue deserve to be discussed (see UK study and study by Hodgkins P, et al Pharmacologic treatment of attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder in children: incidence, prevalence, and treatment patterns in the Netherlands. Clin Ther 2011;33:188-203).

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests