Reviewer's report

Title: Hospital stay in patients admitted for acute bipolar manic episodes prescribed quetiapine immediate or extended release: a retrospective non-interventional cohort study (HOME)

Version: 2
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Reviewer: Shih-Ku Lin

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This study compared the length of stay at hospital of bipolar manic patients treated with quetiapine immediate release or extended release form. The results did not show different length of stay between the two groups, though more than one thousand and two hundred patients were enrolled.

Since the factors influencing length of stay are multiple variant, such as different countries, different clinical settings, different payment system and different illness severity, it is difficult to conclude that one regimen is better that another in terms of length of stay. Nevertheless, this study has shown the results that the IR and XR quetiapine regiment made no difference regarding the length of stay.

Followings are some opinion to the authors:

1. It is interesting to discuss why most clinicians in this study did not follow the Label Suggestion of daily titration regimen? There are some reports that rapid initiation of quetiapine in the treatment of schizophrenia [1, 2], is it the same in bipolar disorder?

2. In clinical practice, quetiapine IR is favored in acute state of mania since it posses more sedative and tranquilizing effect, while in the maintenance phase, XR is favored due to less sedative. Is there any implication from this study on the above point of view?

3. In the abstract background, the IR form should be mentioned first since in the following text the sequence is IR vs XR.

4. The conclusion in the Abstract and Text is not compatible.

5. The section of Statistical Analysis can be condensed to be more readable.


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

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

No conflict to this study/