Reviewer's report

Title: Patient characteristics associated with treatment initiation among paediatric patients with Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder symptoms in a naturalistic setting in Central Europe and East Asia

Version: 1 Date: 27 June 2014
Reviewer: Samuele Cortese

Reviewer's report:

General comment:
This is a very informative study, addressing a topic so far poorly investigated. The main limitation of the study is clearly identified and acknowledged (“the patients included in our study were diagnosed with the symptoms of ADHD, not necessarily with ADHD itself”) and does not impact on the overall quality of the study.

The paper is very well written.

I only have some suggestions to improve the quality of the paper (MINOR ESSENTIAL REVISIONS):

Introduction, l 2: please change to “characterised by the core symptoms of inattention and/or hyperactivity/impulsivity”


In the introduction, I think it would be worthy to mention that a possible factor influencing decision regarding pharmacological treatment is the concern regarding possible adverse effects of medication, although usually adverse events can be safely managed. A paper that may be mentioned is here is the recent one published by the European ADHD guidelines group (Cortese et al., J Child Psychol Psychiatry, 2013)

Discussion
“There is now high-quality evidence supporting the efficacy and effectiveness of a range of pharmacological treatments and behavioural therapies in the treatment of children and adolescents with ADHD”: the efficacy of behavioral interventions for ADHD core symptoms has been challenged by a recent meta-analysis (Sonuga Barke et al., Am J Psychiatry, 2013); this should be mentioned...
Level of interest: An article of outstanding merit and interest in its field

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