Reviewer’s report

**Title:** Patterns of Initiation of Second Generation Antipsychotics for Bipolar Disorder: A Month-by-Month Analysis of Provider Behavior, 2004-2010

**Version:** 2  
**Date:** 10 October 2014

**Reviewer:** Raoul Belzeaux

**Reviewer’s report:**

The authors present an interesting paper on identification of demographic and clinical factors associated with the decision to initiate second generation antipsychotic in bipolar disorders. The aim is timely and very interesting in the field of psychiatry. Methods are based on a large data base and analyses are well done. Results: overall results are very interesting.

Minor essential revision:

One limitation of the study is the lack of comparison with lithium (as reference treatment) that could provide better insight of differences in factors associated with SGA. It is not clear if all treatments for bipolar disorder are more prescribe or not. It is not clear if patients who benefit of SGA would be benefited in the past of lithium, other mood stabilizers or antidepressant. Detailed about this limitation could be added in discussion.

**Level of interest:** An article of importance 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:**

yes, I've been funded by BMS Otsuka for invited conferences in the five past years.