Reviewer's report

Title: Serum brain-derived neurotrophic factor concentrations and personality trait in patients with major depression

Version: 2 Date: 23 October 2014

Reviewer: Alessandra Minelli

Reviewer's report:

- Major Compulsory Revisions
  1) Methods Subjects
     a) In the description of MDD sample the authors wrote “All patients were on antidepressant medication, but were not responding to their current medication.” Do you have enough treatment information for have the opportunity to define the patients (or a number of them) as treatment resistant depressed patients?
     b) A clinical description such as presence of psychotic symptoms, comorbidity with anxiety or personality disorders, age of onset, Percentage of smokers etc., is needed.
     c) Insert in the description of the sample also chronic physical problems, such as hypertension, and relative treatments.
  2) Results
     a) The authors should be include putative correlation with BDNF and TCI scales and subscales with all possible sociodemographic and clinical variables (presence of psychotic symptoms, comorbidity with anxiety or personality disorders, age of onset, education, percentage of smokers, physical problems, treatments, BMI and so on) in particular with well-known affecting variables (such as BMI).
     b) Please show the results of all TCI scales and subscales
  3) Discussion
     a) This section is prevalently focused on the description of literature without an evaluation in relation to your results and without a possible explanation or speculation of your results.
     b) The discussion is poor since the result is poor. Maybe that introducing more analysis your result could become more interesting
     c) It is not clear your speculation when you compare current result with your previous results
  - Minor Essential Revisions
Authors should be check similar results in other psychiatric disorders
Level of interest: An article of limited interest

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