Reviewer's report

Title: Psychotic and schizotypal symptoms in non-psychotic patients with obsessive-compulsive disorder

Version: 2 Date: 10 March 2015

Reviewer: Mythily Subramaniam

Reviewer's report:

Major Compulsory Revisions

1. In the Methods section the authors need to add a statement as to whether the study underwent ethical approval and was an informed consent obtained from patients/

2. The authors need to show the flow of OCD patients and the general psychiatric outpatient group (controls) from various studies using a simple flow diagram. It would also be good to indicate the instruments used for assessments in various arms.

3. The authors must clearly indicate why patients were excluded. OCD patients are indicated as 133 in line 118 and then authors state that 7 were excluded due to psychotic disorders. However Table1 states that n=103. Can the authors clarify?

4. Why were the 20 patients with no psychiatric diagnosis included in the analyses? Would it not be better to exclude them?

5. How many patients in the 'control' arm were assessed by SCID-II and how was the decision made to screen these patients with SCID-II. Were personality disorders identified only in those whom SCID-II was done?

5. This seems to be one of the first studies that had used SCL-90 -R in OCD patients to assess for schizotypal symptoms. Was the validity of the scale assessed in any way?

6. The authors found a correlation of psychotic and schizotypal symptoms with BDI. Did they carry out any partial correlations? This finding should be discussed in further detail in the discussion.

The authors have indicated the fact the use of a general psychiatric outpatient sample and use of different instruments as a limitation. I do feel this is a major limitation of the study and comparison across groups is limited due to the approach.

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