Reviewer's report

Title: Optimising plasma levels of clozapine during metabolic interactions: a review and case report with adjunct rifampicin treatment.

Version: 5 Date: 6 February 2015

Reviewer: Virginio Salvi

Reviewer's report:

About the major compulsory revisions, the authors did not adequately respond to the points I raised in the first review:

1. I pointed out that the authors did not really explain what the course of psychotic symptoms was during rifampicin treatment. Having ascertained the interaction between clozapine and rifampicin, it would have been of outmost relevance to report more precisely, with the help of rating scales, to what extent the course of psychotic symptoms was altered by the reduction clozapine levels. The authors only stated that: “…this period coincided with Mr. X being very unwell with increased levels of psychotic symptoms” and “…the level remained sub-therapeutic and this was reflected in the clinical presentation of the patient.”

The authors reported that rating scales have not been employed, making it impossible to ascertain the clinical relevance of the reduction in clozapine levels.

2. In previous review I stated that it would have been relevant to check lamotrigine-rifampicin interaction: being the patient diagnosed with schizoaffective disorder, it would have been interesting to check whether the possible reduction in lamotrigine levels had brought fluctuations in mood due to a lesser mood-stabilizing efficacy.

The authors, again, did not report any rating scale score nor possible mood swings.

However, the review of the extant literature appears now complete, and the guidance that appears in the Conclusions section looks useful for the clinician. Therefore in my opinion the manuscript might be published it on BMC Psychiatry.

Dr. Virginio Salvi, MD PhD

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:
I declare that I have no competing interests.