Author's response to reviews

Title: A case of a four-year-old child adopted at eight months with unusual mood patterns and significant polypharmacy.

Authors:

Magdalena Romanowicz (romanowicz.magdalena@mayo.edu)

Jennifer Vande Voort (VandeVoort.Jennifer@mayo.edu)

Alastrair McKean (mckean.alastair@mayo.edu)

Version: 2 Date: 13 Jul 2017

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***A separate file will also be uploaded***

***First we wanted to thank the reviews for their suggestions and comments. We agree with all of their ideas and have made subsequent changes.

This is a generally clearly written case report on the challenges of managing an adopted child with complex psychiatric issues. The case additionally examines the issue of polypharmacy. The main critique I have of this article is that the analysis and discussion of polypharmacy in this child is pretty superficial. Other than some details on risperidone dosing, there is no description of dosing of the other medications or of how the various medications overlapped in this child. It would be helpful to provide some analysis of the likely adverse effects of these medications and how they may actually be contributing to the observed behavioral difficulties. Nor is there any discussion of drug-drug interactions, an additional possible contributor to adverse effects.

***We added a table that outlines timing and dosages of all the medications. We included a more detailed discussion of drug-drug interactions.

In addition, there is also, as far as I can tell, only a single citation to an article on pediatric psychotropic medication use. It would be helpful to cite some literature on polypharmacy in children as this is a main focus of the manuscript.

***We added a number of papers that focus on polypharmacy in young children. We also edited discussion section of the paper and outlined main concerns/benefits/questions in regards to the use of psychotropic medications in pediatric patients.

This is a case study of a situation that is common in clinical practice: serious psychopathology in a young child who was exposed to severe/neglect trauma in early life. This case illustrates difficult elements that clinicians struggle with: severe mood dysregulation and aggression, ADHD which is not responsive to first line agents and a history of complex
psychopharmacology. The case will be of interest to readers and should generate discussion. The addition of some information would greatly enhance the understanding of the case.

What is the patient's intellectual level? ***This was included in the case presentation.

Does the patient have any language problems? ***Speech assessment results were included in the case presentation.

Do the authors have access to records of the dose and duration of the various psychotropic medications used? If so, a table might be useful to describe this. ***Table was added with all the outlined information.

If this information is not available this should be noted as a limitation. If available, describe the inpatient course and the discharge medications, if any. ***Added to the case presentation and marked in the table.