Reviewer's report

Title: The Research and Evaluation of Antipsychotic Treatment in Community Behavioral Health Organizations, Outcomes (REACH-OUT) Study: Real-World Clinical Practice in Schizophrenia

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Reviewer: Gabriele Sachs

Reviewer's report:

The manuscript "The Research and Evaluation of Antipsychotic Treatment in Community Behavioral Health Organizations, Outcomes (REACH-OUT) Study: Real-World Clinical Practice in Schizophrenia" deals with the important issue of evaluating health care resource utilization in patients with mental illness treated at outpatients facilities, such as community behavioral health organizations (CBHOs) across the United States. The main objective of the study was to provide a holistic picture of schizophrenia treatment practices in the community setting to health care providers, researchers, policy makers, and other stakeholders.

The data of the study suggest differences in the patient characteristics, treatment patterns, and clinical and economic outcomes among patients with schizophrenia treated with long-acting injectable antipsychotics or oral antipsychotics.

The manuscript is well written, the data presented are interesting and important. The study could contribute to establish treatment patterns that might reduce relapse rates and improve treatment outcome in patients with schizophrenia and bipolar disorder.

The strength of the study is the number of the patients included and that the patients were followed up prospectively for 12 month.

There are two major shortcomings in this manuscript:

1. No information is given about how the diagnosis was assessed. Were the patients diagnosed by DSM-IV, DSM-IV-TR, SCID, MINI, ICD-10?.

2. The article compares the group of patients that received oral antipsychotics with the group receiving depot medication. This comparison is highly interesting, but it seems that the decision to allocate a patient is depending from the actual availability of a substance as depot formulation.
If a physician decides for a therapy with risperidone there is a clear choice between oral risperidone and risperidone LAI. If a physician decides for a therapy with clozapine there is no alternative to the oral application.

In addition to the analysis that has already been performed, we suggest to analyze the data using the following groups:

a. oral antipsychotic (only oral availability of this substance, e.g. clozapine) vs.

b. oral antipsychotic (the substance is available as depot, e.g. oral risperidone) vs.

c. depot antipsychotic.

**Are the methods appropriate and well described?**
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

**Does the work include the necessary controls?**
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

**Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?**
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

Yes

**Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?**
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

I am able to assess the statistics

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