Reviewer's report

Title: Characterizing the experience of agitation in patients with bipolar disorder and schizophrenia

Version: 1 Date: 11 Dec 2017

Reviewer: Ole Bernt Fasmer

Reviewer's report:

In this paper symptoms of agitation are reported on, seen from the perspective of patients. This is clearly meeting a need. Such symptoms are common in clinical practice, and often neglected. The background for the study is clearly stated and previous literature adequately referred to. Concise and well-written discussion.

Even though the aim of the study has not been to look at agitation as a side effect of medication (akathisia) I think this should be mentioned in the background section.

I also think that lack of information on medication status should be included as a limitation.

Are any data available on how many patients refused to participate when specifically asked?

In the survey there are questions on medication used to control agitation (Q11, 12 & 13)? I think these are very interesting and relevant questions. Why are the results not reported on?

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

**Quality of written English**

Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

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