Reviewer’s report

Title: Guidelines for the pharmacological acute treatment of major depression: Conflicts with current evidence as demonstrated with the German S3-Guidelines

Version: 0 Date: 07 Apr 2019

Reviewer: Antonio Clavenna

Reviewer’s report:

In my opinion, the authors argument in a satisfactory manner that the effectiveness of antidepressants is questionable and that this uncertainty is not fully recognised in the international guidelines concerning the treatment of major depression.

I have a few minor essential revisions to suggest.

Page 4, line 25-30: it seems to me that the sentence "In any case...reported in S3-guidelines" is not very clear.

There are a few references cited in the table but not in the text of the manuscript. In my opinion, it should be better to cite them also in the text. E.g. references of meta-analyses reported in table 2 can be cited on page 9, line 57.

Reference #41 is an update of ref. #40. I would like to suggest to cite only the latter.

Reference 56 is missed.

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.

Not relevant to this manuscript

**Quality of written English**

Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

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