Reviewer's report

Title: Predictors of Outcome in Early Onset Schizophrenia: A 10-Year Follow-Up Study

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Reviewer: Barbara Remberk

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Interesting study which focus on the important topic of EOS outcome. The sample and results' analysis are properly described; nevertheless some issues need to be addressed.

1. Results.

a. Although the Authors describe the mean age of onset (+SD), also age range should be provided.

b. As in further section the cut-off of age of onset is discussed, number of VEOS patients and number of patients with onset below 14,7 should also be presented.

c. Is there any bottom age limit for children's' admission to Peking University Institute of Mental Health where the study was conducted?

d. The Authors discuss prevalence of metabolic syndrome and associated problems like obesity and hyperlipidemia. Where those data also obtained by self-report? The way of obtaining those data should be described (for example I wonder what question was used to assess hyperlipidemia?) and the reliability of the data should be discussed in the limitation section.

e. The Authors mention relatively high percentage of clozapine administered patient. I would appreciate some comments on this topic. Did clozapine use was associated with the outcome?

2. Discussion.

The Authors cite previous studies focused on diagnostic stability in EOS. One of the crucial issue in this topic is the used diagnostic system - according to ICD-10 one month of symptoms is required to establish schizophrenia diagnosis while DSM (4, 5) require six months of symptoms, including prodromal or residual. This may be one of the reasons of previous studies' results discrepancy.

3. Limitations. The Authors (briefly) refer to the reliability of the collected follow-up data; however nothing is said about reliability of baseline data. Especially the assessment of
(premorbid?) personality traits seem to be vulnerable to subjective interpretation both at baseline - when the informant might be biased - and later, during the study analysis.

In general, I would appreciate some information how the medical records were prepared and organized during admissions at 2006 and how they were archived and accessed during the study.

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.

Unable to assess

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
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