Reviewer's report

Title: How effective are common medications: a perspective based on meta-analyses of major drugs

Version: 1 Date: 16 June 2015

Reviewer: Seena Fazel

Reviewer's report:

A useful overview.

Major compulsory

My only suggestion is that the authors consider some stratification of outcomes - so that the harder ones are put together (e.g. mortality, CV events) and those based on symptoms placed together (i.e. symptom score reduction). An alternative that I think makes for a longer piece would be to use the same list of medications but used comparatively similar outcomes (e.g. use a continuous measure for statins).

Discretionary

The listing of meta-analyses assumes similar quality and I wonder if some measure of quality can appear on the figure. Can simply be a Grade score or something appropriate. Sample size is clearly a proxy, but I think can be supplemented by other indices.

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I have received funding from Janssen in the last 5 years to cover costs to attend a conference. My speaker's fee was donated to charity. Prof Leucht had a sabbatical in Oxford University Department of Psychiatry, where I work, over 2013-2014.