Reviewer’s report

Title: A randomized controlled trial of a mitochondrial therapeutic target for bipolar depression: Mitochondrial agents, N-acetylcysteine, and placebo

Version: 0 Date: 07 Sep 2018

Reviewer: Michele Fornaro

Reviewer's report:

I enjoyed reading the present report, which is nicely and concisely written. I have only few minor remarks to prompt to the attention of the authors:

1) I am not sure if they followed an ITT or a LOCF analysis.

2) Where there any specific symptoms of depression differing between the active group vs. placebo (beyond the total score)?

3) I feel like the discussion is bit concise. I would suggest the authors to encompass the mitochondrial targets in bipolar depression even in comparison to standard treatments, especially lithium. You may want to refer to the following: "The Identification of Biomarkers Predicting Acute and Maintenance Lithium Treatment Response in Bipolar Disorder: A Plea for Further Research Attention" for example (https://doi.org/10.1016/j.psychres.2018.08.034).

Besides that, I think the present report Is a relevant contribute to the field a nice fit for the present Editorial destination. Thank you.

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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