

Reviewer's report

Title: The Mood Disorder Questionnaire improves recognition of bipolar disorder in psychiatric care

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Reviewer: Franco Benazzi

Level of interest: A paper of considerable general medical or scientific interest

Advice on publication: Accept after discretionary revisions

Small but important paper. It shows that the MDQ is biased toward bipolar I and can lead to high underdiagnosis of bipolar II. This is supported by the MDQ community study (Am J Psychiatry, 2003, Jan), finding a prevalence of bipolar disorder under 4%, which is very similar to that found by simply adding the figures reported in DSM-IV bipolar disorders.

Discretionary revision. As hypomania is often a period of improved functioning, the MDQ question requiring moderate-severe problems will miss most bipolar II. I would suggest the authors to try to see the results by deleting the "problems" question, how sensitivity and specificity change, which number of symptoms would give the best combination of sensitivity and specificity. And to add this table to the present ones.

Competing interests:

None declared.