Reviewer's report

**Title:** Reduced P300 amplitude during retrieval on a spatial working memory task in a community sample of adolescents who report psychotic symptoms

**Version:** 1  **Date:** 2 February 2013

**Reviewer:** Masumi Inagaki

**Reviewer's report:**

Referee’s comments

Authors described a new neurocognitive trait marker for psychotic symptoms by using P300 component during a spatial working memory task. They showed that the P300 amplitude reduced in the psychotic groups at posterior electrode sites rather than control group. In addition, the amplitude reduction was salient at high load working memory task compared to low load task. They concluded that the P300 amplitude identified the neurocognitive abnormality and reflected the psychotic symptoms level.

However, there is a major concern about this research report. Selection of the subjects seems to be unclear. A referee cannot find the details about sampling the pathological group. A total of 17 children, who have definite psychotic symptoms, were recruited from only 2 classes in the primary schools?

A referee feels that there is no space of publication for the present paper.

**Level of interest:** An article of insufficient interest to warrant publication in a scientific/medical journal

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

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