Author's response to reviews

Title: Pharmacological challenge with a serotonin 1D agonist in alcohol dependence.

Authors:

Bavanisha Vythilingum (bv@sun.ac.za)
Charmaine J Hugo (cjhugo@sun.ac.za)
Stefan Maritz (stefan.maritz@mrc.ac.za)
Willie P Plenar (wppien@sun.ac.za)
Dan J Stein (djs2@sun.ac.za)

Version: 3 Date: 13 July 2005

Author's response to reviews: see over
Covering letter

Reviewer – John H Krystal
Major compulsory revision

1. The statistical methods section gives more detail than before, in particular the justification for the test statistics that were used. The referee’s suggestion of first transforming the data to normality cannot be followed owing to the discrete nature of the scores.
2. Only 4 of the 15 patients were type II (early onset) Comment has been made regarding this in the manuscript

Reviewer – Harriet de Wit
Major compulsory revision

1. Explanation for the use of sumatriptan has been given in the text.

Minor essential Revisions

1. Basis for sumatriptan increasing cravings has been described in more detail
2. Studies now fully referenced
3. 15 patient – 11 males 4 females
4. Measures to prevent relapse have been described
5. Drug administration is oral
6. Justification for 100mg is given in text
7. Statistical methods have been described in more detail
8. 
9. Citations 1 and 2 refer to 2 studies – 1 in humans, 2 in animals

Items changed in text of article have been highlighted.