Reviewer's report

Title: The longitudinal interplay between negative and positive symptom trajectories in patients under antipsychotic treatment: a post hoc analysis of data from a 1-year study

Version: 1 Date: 23 December 2012

Reviewer: Stephen Levine

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This is an interesting article, well-written and reasonably analyzed. Prior to acceptance, a few points are appropriate to incorporate.

Major Compulsory Revisions

1. The literature review is incomplete. The below citations are missing that must be cited and noted-

Data from randomized controlled trials has shown that treatment response is heterogeneous and is typically captured by 4 or 5 symptom severity trajectory groups [1-4] (examine these papers on positive and negative symptoms – esp. #3). This finding is complemented by epidemiological data showing X trajectories of hospitalization based data (a symptom proxy) with over 30 years showing [5].

Minor Essential Revisions

2. Statistical analysis – directions for future study – dual trajectory modeling, and ability to account for systematic dropout common in RCTs, in some software.

3. Present BICs with posterior odds / neither.

4. Typos – there are a few. E.g., “The psychometric property of” – should be properties.

References in this document that should have been included in the manuscript


**Level of interest:** An article of outstanding merit and interest in its field

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

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

**Declaration of competing interests:**

Stephen Z. Levine has received research support, and / or consultancy fees and/or travel support from F. Hoffmann-LaRoche and Eli Lilly.