

Message from your editor

Dear Author,

It was a pleasure working on your document. Do go through my changes and comments in the edited file.

Editor's report

On the basis of changes made for coherence, logic, and flow, I have provided feedback through specific comments along with ratings for each section. The key below the table explains my ratings. I hope you find my feedback useful.

Section	Rating
Title An effective title is concise while being representative.	★ ★ ★
Abstract A good abstract explains the aims of the research, how these were met, and the main findings.	★ ★
Introduction This section should set the context for the study, clearly state the research objective, and establish the significance of the study.	★ ★ ★
Materials and methods This section should completely describe all methods, techniques, and instruments used. This includes ethical considerations.	★ ★
Results and discussion These sections should present the data and findings in clear and unbiased manner, and address the objective or research question stated in the introduction.	★ ★ ★
Conclusions A good concluding section notes the limitations of the study. It should mention the scope for further research as well as the implications/application of the study.	★ ★ ★

★ ★ ★ This section required only a few revisions.
★ ★ Most parts of this section required revision.
★ The entire section required significant revision. Please go through my comments/changes carefully.

Comments

SCOPE

The manuscript adheres to the Aims & Scope of the journal. The study compared genome-wide methylation and gene expression patterns between responsive and non-responsive patients with panic disorder following escitalopram treatment. This aligns with the target journal's aim to publish research in the field of psychiatry to help advance the development of this field.

NOVELTY OF THE STUDY

The study's contribution to existing research is clearly highlighted. The study demonstrated that differentially methylated positions might be associated with the treatment response to escitalopram in panic disorder.

RELEVANCE AND CONTRIBUTION OF THE STUDY

The topic is relevant in today's scenario and will be of interest to the journal's readership. The findings of the study will be useful in the further development of treatment strategies for panic disorder.

SUBMISSION READINESS

The **title** was brief and well-framed and nicely captured the central point of the study.

The **abstract** indicated the background of the study and the study's motivations. The methods and major findings were succinctly described, and a concluding statement summarizing the findings was provided. I suggest adding a statement toward the end stating the broad significance of these findings.

The **introduction** effectively set the stage for the study, providing background and explaining what is known in the field as well as the gaps in the knowledge. A clear aim statement was provided at the end.

The **methods** were sufficiently detailed to permit a clear understanding and replication of the described procedures. A clear, logical order was followed, and a separate section on the statistical analyses was also provided. I suggest adding a statement of ethics approval and the provision of informed consent by the study participants.

The **results** were well described, aided by the use of appropriate subheadings and containing proper citations to figures; overall, the findings were easy to understand and showed a very good flow.

The **discussion** interpreted these findings and explained their significance quite well. Overall, this section was very well structured, and the broad significance of the findings has been stated. I recommend adding the limitations of the study and the scope for future research.

The **conclusions** highlighted the major findings of the study and provided the scope for future research. The limitations of the study were also provided.

Quick tip

Guideline

Letter from the editor

Avoid using short coordinating conjunctions like “and” and “but” at the beginning of sentences

Explanation

Starting a sentence with conjunctions like “and” and “but” lends a slightly informal tone to the writing. These words should preferably be replaced with formal alternatives like “further”/“moreover” (for “and”) and “however” (for “but”).

Example

Avoid: “Also, no candidate genes were identified based on integrative analysis of differential DNA methylation and expression.”

Better: “Furthermore, no candidate genes were identified based on integrative analysis of differential DNA methylation and expression.”