Biostatistician Report

We used the following statistical analyses:

Means, standard deviations and percentages were calculated. T-tests or when appropriate non-parametric test were used to compare characteristics of patient groups. To assess which factors may affect symptom severity over time, bivariate correlations and non-parametric tests (Mann-Whitney) were used between individual factors and the change in symptom severity score from baseline to 2 & 6 months. Variables which were significant in initial analyses, or thought to be biologically relevant, were then included in a multivariable logistic regression model. Two-sided p-values less than 0.05 were regarded as statistically significant. SPSS 15 was used for all analyses (2006, SPSS Inc., Chicago, IL, U.S.A.).

Statistical power/sample size A sample size of > 100 subjects was considered sufficient to identify relevant effect at an alpha level of 0.05 and a beta > 0.75.