Reviewer 1

Comment 1.

 “A retrospective observational study better describes the method used”

Answer: The title and the final sentence of the introduction have been modified as follows:

Title: SRIs Augmentation with Cariprazine In Patients with Treatment Resistant Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder: a retrospective observational study.

Lane 33: We report retrospective observational data of OCD patients who failed to respond to SRIs and were subsequently treated with low dose cariprazine (CPZ) as an add-on.

Comment 2.

“Patients underwent a twelve-week cariprazine augmentation trial” makes feel that patients were treated as part of an intervention study. I suggest to include this earlier in the section, while summarizing the inclusion criteria. Further, “Cariprazine’s starting dose was 1,5 mg/day for all patients”: does this mean that only patients starting with 1,5 mg/day were included or that all included patients started by chance with 1,5 mg/day??

Answer: The sentence has been moved earlier in the section as suggested. The inclusion criteria has been reformulated accordingly, ensuring that is clearer the fact that only patients starting with 1,5 mg/day have been selected.

Lane 41-43: Patients included in the analysis had to have a Yale-Brown Obsessive-Compulsive Scale (YBOCS) total score ≥16, to be resistant to at least one adequate trial with a SRI (clomipramine, citalopram, escitalopram, fluoxetine, fluvoxamine, paroxetine, sertraline), and consequently treated with cariprazine at a starting dose of 1,5 mg/day.

Comment 3

“The SRI dose remained unchanged during add-on weeks” as non intervention study, this part should not be included in the methods, but in the results instead.

Answer: The sentence has been deleted in the methods section and reformulated in the results (lane 66-67): The SRI dose remained unchanged during add-on weeks for all patients.

Comment 4

Please include a description of main clinical and demographic data (age, sex as a minimum)

Answer: A description of the main clinical and demographic data was added as follows:

Lane 65-67: A mean age of 40,9±15,9 years was recorded among the patients; 7 (53,8%) were female and 6 (46,2%) were male. The majority of them were married (61,5%) and had a high educational level (69,2% ≥13 years). Mean age at OCD onset was 17,2±4,0 years while mean illness duration was 30,8±11,4 years.

Check the paper for misspellings: misspelling and English language have now been reviewed.

Reviewer 2

Comment 1: Introduction

Lines 5-6 “Although the proportion of patients who may be considered treatment resistant or intolerant is difficult to define, it may be approximately estimated to be between 40 and 50 percent after an adequate drug treatment trial” Cite

Answer: Pertinent references have been cited as requested.

“Lines 10-18: cite”

Answer: References relevant to the topic have been cited as requested. As a consequence the whole reference list has been renumbered.

Comment 2: Materials and Methods

“Were there any exclusion criteria (i.e.) in terms of comorbidity?

Answer: we have added the following sentence

Line 42-43: There were no exclusion criteria applied. However, neither psychiatric comorbidity nor substance abuse were detected during data collection.

Please explicitly state the level of significance for statistical analysis

Answer: The significance level has been stated (Line 61)

Comment 3: Tables and Figures

A figure showing the changes in YBOCS scores from baseline to the end of the 12-week observation period may be helpful to effectively present the data.

Answer: Figure 1 showing YBOCS score changes has been added.