Reviewer's report

Title: GPs are less active in managing young adults who will attempt suicide. A cross-sectional study

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Reviewer: Sarah L Alderson

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This is a cross-sectional study that assesses care of young adults compared to older adults before a suicide attempt. It uses data that is uploaded by GPs after a suicide attempt has been recorded.

1. Is the question posed by the authors well defined?
The aim of this study is to compare GP management of patients who have subsequently attempted suicide and is well defined.

2. Are the methods appropriate and well described?
The methods used to collect data and analyse this are well described and are appropriate. The main query I would have with the data is that the reason for attending the GP is not documented. This may affect the results, in that consultations for mental health are more likely to lead to disclosure of psychological distress than those for, eg, urti or contraception.

3. Are the data sound?
This study uses gp reports that are collected after the suicide attempt and are self-reported by the GP. This could lead to bias in the results as the GP will have knowledge of the suicide attempt at the time of documentation.

4. Does the manuscript adhere to the relevant standards for reporting and data deposition?
Yes.

5. Are the discussion and conclusions well balanced and adequately supported by the data?
The conclusion that GP’s are less active when diagnosing & treating depression in young adults is overstated. The data collects treatment data within the past 3 months, however for young adults, a significant proportion were not seen in the previous 6 months to the suicide attempt. This suggests that young adults do not consult for mental health problems or that the suicidal attempts are more opportunistic compared to older adults. The longer gap between being seen by the GP and attempting suicide may mean that the patient was not depressed, or as severely depressed at the time of seeing the GP, making risk of suicide difficult to detect.

The second sentence in the conclusions states that GP’s identified fewer
psychological difficulties in younger adults but this is not shown in the results. They authors state that there was no significant difference between recognition of psychological distress, but there was in diagnosis of depression.

6. Are limitations of the work clearly stated?
There are limitations that are clearly stated, however I would like the authors to address the above comments in the limitations.

7. Do the authors clearly acknowledge any work upon which they are building, both published and unpublished?
Yes

8. Do the title and abstract accurately convey what has been found?
The title & abstract does clearly summarize the project.

9. Is the writing acceptable?
Yes

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

**Declaration of competing interests:**
I declare that I have no competing interests