Reviewer's report

Title: Functional and Self-Rated Health Mediate the Association between Physical Indicators of Diabetes and Depression

Version: 1 Date: 24 March 2014

Reviewer: Bhautesh Dinesh Jani

Reviewer's report:

Major Revisions: for diabetes
1. Background (2nd Paragraph, 4th line): Authors' state that "It has been hypothesized that depression may constitute a risk factor [e.g., 7], but there is more and stronger evidence for depression as a consequence of diabetes [e.g., 8].

Reference 7 is meta-analysis by Mezuk et al. based on 13 studies and more than 6000 patients showing 60% increased of development of type 2 Diabetes in patients with depression, so there is substantial evidence supporting this relationship. Reference 8 is another meta-analysis based on 11 studies and more than 48,000 patients showing 24% increased risk of development of depression in patients with Diabetes. Based on the references which the authors have quoted, I do not agree with authors' observation that there is more and stronger evidence for depression as a consequence of diabetes.

2. Background (2nd Paragraph, last line): Authors state that "While some studies found significant associations between depression and glycemic control [e.g., 9,10] other found no such relationship [11,12].

Reference 11 is a review by Markowitz et al examining the efficacy of various treatment options in treatment of depression in patients with diabetes. This review does not examine the relationship between glycemic control and prevalent depressive symptoms in patients with diabetes.

3. Methods<Depressive Symptoms: Authors state that a WHO score of < 28 is regarded as an indicator of a major depressive disorder. The authors should quote that the accuracy of the suggested cut-off i.e. <28 is 80% against SCID based on the study they have referenced.

4. Methods<Physical Health Measures: It is unclear from the manuscript, whether authors have used HbA1C as a binary variable or a continuous variable. This needs to be clarified.

5. Results Section: A flow chart explaining the total number of patients at the beginning of the study and patient drop-outs at various stages is required as per the STROBE statement.

Minor Revisions
1. Discussion Section: This section could be potentially divided into "Summary of Findings", "Comparison with Existing Literature" and "Limitations" sub-headings.

2. The implications of various patient drop outs should be discussed in Limitations.

**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:**

None