Reviewer’s report

Title: Prevalence of commonly prescribed medications potentially contributing to urinary symptoms in a cohort of older patients seeking care for incontinence

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Reviewer: LI ZHANG

Reviewer’s report:

Urinary incontinence is a common, distressing problem in the elderly and vitally affects people’s quality of life. This article determined the prevalence of the medications use in a clinical cohort of incontinent patients and discussed the associations between medication use and the severity and type of urinary symptoms using a cross-sectional study.

Although the article has a clear structure and well written, their research design is problematic. The causes of urinary incontinence in the elderly include structural and functional changes in vesical muscle, impaired neural control and age-related changes of the lower urinary tract. Urinary incontinence can also be a side effect of medication. That says, the use of medications is not the single cause or risk factor of the occurrence and proceeds of the urinary incontinence in the elderly. Therefore, the findings are likely biased if authors only focused on the associations between medication use and the urinary incontinence without considering other risk factors attributable to the urinary incontinence. In other words, authors should re-do their analyses using multiple regressions that control for these variables if available.

Furthermore, there is no control group in their research. Consequently, their results are only the prevalence of medications in the urinary incontinence patients, so the conclusion is less robust and the clinical implications are very limited. In addition, in any case, authors need to note the limitation of their methods in the final part of the article.

There are some inconsistencies in presentations of data. For example, as the article showed that there were 390 participants recruited, but the sample size was 460 according to the type of incontinence in Table 1.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

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