Reviewer's report

Title: Depression in Chronic Kidney Disease Patients

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Reviewer: Maurizio Bossola

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The study of Chiang et al is well designed and conducted. I

INTRODUCTION: It is well written and well underline the problem of depression in CKD patients. The aims are clear

METHODS: The population sample is adequate. The authors used the Taiwanese Depression Questionnaire (TDQ) that is specific for Asian people. Does this questionnaire allow the "diagnosis" of depression or it only describe the presence and severity of symptoms of depression?. Please, explain.

RESULTS: Religious beliefs, sleep disturbances, exercise, and disease stage only were significantly related to depression in this population. However, there are not data about the inflammatory status of these patients (e.g, C-reactive protein and Interleukin-6 levels). Why?

DISCUSSION: It is well written but it could be improved significantly discussing the following issues:

- age is not related to depression; how the authors may explain this result?
- gender, also, is not related to depression. Usually, females are at increased risk of depression in the general population and in hemodialysis. Please explain;
- and what about comorbidity? Patients with more comorbidities in some study in hemodialysis are more frequently associated with symptoms of depression and/or anxiety. Please explain;
- the bigger limitation of this study is that its resulted cannot be generalized and are limited to the Chinese population. This must strengthen in the Discussion to avoid confusion and misunderstanding

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

'I declare that I have no competing interests'