Author's response to reviews

Title: The effect of ethnicity on prescribing practice and treatment outcome in inpatients suffering from schizophrenia in Greece

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Editor

Re MS: 1269427554464883
The effect of ethnicity on prescribing practice and treatment outcome in inpatients suffering from schizophrenia in Greece

Thank you for your letter. Our paper has been copyedited and proof read by a native English speaker.
The changes in the revised manuscript are highlighted as suggested. We have added in the acknowledgments our thanks to the reviewers who with their comments have improved we believe the paper.
I am not sure if their names can or cannot be mentioned. If mentioning the names is not in the journals policy please change this section of the acknowledgments accordingly

For the attention of Reviewer Evangelos Karamatskos

Thank you for your comments. Re your major point
Your observation about the benzodiazepines revealed «blind spot» from the authors point of view and a substantial indication towards racial bias in the psychiatrist’s prescribing. Your observation has added value to our paper.
As a result the results and discussion section of the paper has been changed and the finding about benzodiazepines has been added in the abstract (please see the highlighted areas).
Your point «I am missing a statement regarding the exact diagnostic classification…» we believe has been answered with the addition of Table 2.
Your point «Is there an association between sub-points of the BPRS and the use of any medication? It would be very interesting to investigate this, regarding that ethnical background can affect the symptomatology of a disorder» is very interesting but we believe could not be addressed in this paper and is a suggestion for another research project we should try to undertake.
Your point about the cost of SSRIs SNRIs is valid but in Greece at the time of the study generic antidepressants were not really available and a highlighted paragraph has been added on page 10 providing some explanation.
We believe your (minor) points re spelling and punctuation have been corrected and we use the term FGa and SGA throughout the paper.
Your suggestion for «discretionary revisions» has been answered with the addition of Table 1 that shows that there was only one patient of Western European origin

For the attention of reviewer Nikolaos Koutsoulieris

Thank you for your comments that have been helpful and improved our paper
1. Our paper has been copyedited and proof read by a native English speaker with experience on scientific publications.
2. The limitation you mentioned is discussed in the discussion section (p.11) highlighted.
3. Your point about diagnosis and chronicity we believe has been addressed with the addition of table 2 that describes our sample on these parameters. We have also added table 1 about countries of origin.

4. We used the Holm-Bonferroni correction for the twelve hypotheses tested. Confounding variables were still measured at .05.

5. Regarding the gender imbalance reported, following your suggestion we corrected the parameter gender using the the male/female ratio (0.875 for Greeks, 1.625 for non-Greeks) so as to calculate new 'frequencies' for males/females i.e: with uncorrected gender, 39 Greeks received SSRIs. When corrected we split the 39 yes into 24m*(1/0.875) = 27.43m and 15f*0.875=13.125 females. We entered the new data into a new SPSS window and redone the tests for the experimental hypotheses. We did not retest for GAF admission, GAF discharge, BPRSE admission, BPRS-E discharge. We also tried CROSSTABS for gender*ethnicity*DV for several of our DVs including SSRIs use and Benzodiazepine use, using the Fisher's exact test's alpha, because the sample got smaller. We obtained the same results as with our previous correction.

Changes are highlighted on the tables.

6. All doctors were Greek and this is mentioned (and highlighted) on page 6

Yours sincerely (on behalf of all authors)
A. Douzenis