Author's response to reviews

Title: Prevalence of depression and associated risk factors among persons with type-2 diabetes mellitus without a prior psychiatric history: a cross-sectional study in clinical settings in urban Nepal

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Editor and Reviewer:

Thank you for the opportunity to revise this manuscript. We have addressed all of the points raised by the editor and the reviewer. A detailed list of responses is provided below. Thank you.

EDITORS COMMENTS:

WE ARE INTERESTED IN A REVISED MANUSCRIPT WITH AN ITEM-BY-ITEM RESPONSE TO THE RE-REVIEW OF LESLEY JO WEAVER. PLEASE ALSO:

1) REPORT TEST STATISTIC, DEGREES OF FREEDOM, AND P-VALUES IN REPORTING OF RESULTS

Authors' Response: Test statistics, df, and p-values were added for analyses in the results section.

2) PLEASE PROVIDE MORE DETAILS IN THE STATISTICAL METHODS RELATED TO MODEL SELECTION (PROCESS, VARIABLES CONSIDERED).

The final multivariable model included sex, age, religion, ethnicity/caste, marital status, years of education, monthly income, family type, number of family members, parental history of DM, family history of HTN, personal history of HTN, smoking, alcohol use, treatment non-adherence, DM complications, erectile dysfunction, systolic blood pressure, diastolic blood pressure, waist-hip-ratio, and glycated hemoglobin. These variables were included in the model because of a known history of association with depression in Nepal or other study populations. Body-mass-index was not included in the multivariable model because it was not statistically significant in bivariate analysis with depression and because of high collinearity with waist-hip-ratio. Although systolic and diastolic blood pressure are collinear, when entered in the same multivariable model, they both remained significant. Therefore, both were kept in the model.

3) PLEASE BE CONSISTENT IN USE OF DECIMAL PLACES IN REPORTING BETA COEFFICIENTS.

Authors' response: All beta values are now reported to one digit past the decimal point.

4) I WAS SURPRISED TO SEE SYSTOLIC BLOOD PRESSURE AND DIASTOLIC BLOOD PRESSURE INCLUDED IN THE SAME MULTIVARIATE MODEL. EVEN MORE SURPRISING THAT INDEPENDENT OF EACH OTHER SIMILAR PARAMETER ESTIMATES OBTAINED. SIMILARLY BMI AND WHR ARE IN THE SAME MODEL. WOULD BE INTERESTED IN MODEL DIAGNOSTICS HERE, PARTICULAR WITH REGARD TO COLLINEARITY. COMBINING PREDICTORS COULD ALSO REDUCE RISK OF OVER-FITTING.

Authors' response: Diastolic and systolic blood pressure both remained significant when entered into the multivariable model, suggesting independent contributions to depression outcomes. Therefore both were retained in the model. BMI was not significant in bivariate analyses. Therefore, it was not included in the multivariable analyses.

5) PLEASE INCLUDE STATISTICS RELATED TO MODEL FIT IN TABLE 3 (E.G. R^2, F-TEST STATISTIC, DEGREES OF FREEDOM, P-VALUE

The following information was added to the table: R^2=.4, F=15, df=369, p<.001.

Reviewer's report
Title: Prevalence of depression and associated risk factors among persons with type-2 diabetes mellitus without a prior psychiatric history: a cross-sectional study in clinical settings in urban Nepal
Version: 2 Date: 14 October 2013
Reviewer: Lesley Jo Weaver
Reviewer's report:
The revised version of the article successfully addresses study limitations and the questions that I and the other reviewer raised about the role of socioeconomic status in the relationship between diabetes and depression in this population. It also now points out that depression prevalence in this diabetic group rivals prevalences documented in other high-risk Nepali groups, an important finding. The addition of these considerations result in a more nuanced analysis of the issues at hand, and they have resolved the larger conceptual concerns I initially had with the manuscript.
Edits for grammar and writing style have largely addressed writing style issues I brought up in the initial review, but the manuscript still contains myriad typos, some of which I have noted below. It would still benefit from a very careful read-through for lingering grammar, punctuation, and other typos (including extra or missing spaces between words, etc.).
Minor compulsory revisions
1. The word “an” should be deleted from the last sentence of the Conclusions section in the abstract.
CORRECTED.

2. The first three sentences of Background all repeat the word “greater” at least once. From a writing-style perspective, the vocabulary should be varied a bit so as to avoid this word repetition.
CORRECTED.

3. I am glad to see the authors condensed some of the material in the first several paragraphs of the introduction, but the result is that the first paragraph of Background is now too long. It should be divided into at least two paragraphs, and I would suggest three. For instance, a new paragraph could begin with the sentence, “Worldwide, the prevalence of mood...” and another paragraph could begin with, “The association of depression and diabetes has been reported...”
AUTHORS’ RESPONSE: WE HAVE CREATED THREE PARAGRAPHS AT THE BREAKS SUGGESTED.

4. Delete the word “useful” in the first sentence of Instruments section.
CORRECTED

5. The word “odds ratio” at the end of page 11 should be plural.
CORRECTED.

6. The words “statistical difference” in the second sentence of Results: Sample Characteristics should read “statistically significant difference”.
CORRECTED.

7. “Systolic and diastolic” in the second sentence of the last paragraph on page 13 should read “systolic and diastolic blood pressure”
8. The sentence beginning “In the present study...” under the Discussion section should be indented to create a new paragraph.

CORRECTED.

9. Note typos involving semi-colons and commas in references in third sentence of first paragraph of Results: Risk Indicators for Depression section. Also note typos in last two sentences of this paragraph.

CORRECTED.

10. Indent first sentence on page 16 if you intend to make it a separate paragraph, or delete extra spaces after last sentence on page 15 to combine. The same is true for last sentence on page 16 and first sentence on page 17.

CORRECTED.

11. Add the word “was” after “rural population” in this sentence from page 17: “Our study showed participants from urban area were more depressed (p<0.001) which is not consistent with other studies where rural population more depressed [20, 51].”

CORRECTED.

12. Note typos in first full sentence on page 18, including the word “an” where it should be “a” and an extra period.

CORRECTED.

13. The word “of” is missing from this sentence on page 18: “One reason that smoking may not be associated with poorer outcomes is the epidemic of respiratory disorders in Kathmandu given the overwhelming burden pollution in the city.”

CORRECTED.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field
Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published
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.