Title: Efficacy of depression treatments for immigrant patients: Results from a systematic review

Authors:

Josefine Antoniades (Josefine.antoniades@monash.edu)
Danielle Mazza (Danielle.mazza@monash.edu)
Bianca Brijnath (bianca.brijnath@monash.edu)

Version: 3 Date: 20 May 2014

Author's response to reviews: see over
20 May 2014.

Dear Editor,

Re: MS: 1764216199124340

Thank you for the response on our manuscript “Efficacy of depression treatments targeting first-generation immigrants: Results from a systematic review”

We have read the reviewers comments and found them most useful. We have accepted and incorporated most of their comments. How this has been done is indicated in a detailed response prepared below.

Thank you once again for the opportunity to revise and resubmit.

Yours Sincerely

Josefine Antoniades
Department of General Practice
Monash University
Melbourne, Australia.
Response to Reviewers

Reviewer 1

Minor essential revisions:
1. Given that the paper is intended to influence policy, the language that the intervention was delivered in should be emphasised earlier in the paper and also in the result section and form a column in table 4 (which is Table 1).

Authors’ response
We have refined the paper to emphasize which language the interventions were delivered as well as included intervention language in Table 1.

2. The abstract should also emphasise the limited ethnic groups covered by the included studies

Authors’ response
The abstract has been amended to reflect the limited ethnic groups covered in the reviewed studies and the need to include more diverse groups in future studies.

Discretionary revisions:
It would be helpful to see p values to quantify the statistically significant “yes/no/partially” column in table 4 and the associated write up (Table 1).

Authors’ response
Statistically significant results reported in reviewed articles have been quantified in Table 1 in Column: “Effect on depressive symptoms”, and have been added to the main body of the text.

Reviewer #2

Title: I am wondering about your title-“targeting” first generation immigrants. Does that capture your review? You may want to consider other words.

Authors’ response
Title has been altered to reflect Reviewer 2’s suggestion. The amended title is as follows: Efficacy of depression treatments for immigrant patients: Results from a systematic review
Discussion
In this section—pg 14 onwards there are several recommendations/implications that could be highlighted for future research-line pg 14 309-313, 319-321; pg 15 line 333-337; (suggest a subheading such as Research Implications or Recommendations) to draw more attention to the reader.
With careful editing this section could be strengthened. What are the implications for future research studies to move the body of scientific knowledge forward?

Authors’ response
We have incorporated this important point into our discussion in the following way:
We have edited the Discussion to incorporate a Research Implication sub-heading which specifically focuses on the implications of the reviewed literature for future research as well as recommendations relating to important methodological considerations for prospective studies.

Editing
There are several areas which require careful editing—either run on sentences or awkward wording (“research investigating depression treatments...,” pg 4 line 75-77, pg 5 line 107-11, pg 15 line 339-342, pg 16 355-357

Authors’ response
We have refined the lines in question to address concerns highlighted.

Line 75-77 altered to: *Therefore, this review will systematically identify studies that investigate depression treatments in immigrant populations and evaluate the effectiveness of these treatment strategies/models.*

Line 107-11 altered to: *Studies that included participants under the age of 18 were excluded. This was done to avoid the additional and unique complexities associated with child and adolescent mental health.*

Line 339-342 altered to: *Further, it is interesting to note that no pharmacological interventions were identified in our search considering that racial and ethnical differences may influence drug responses, which in turn relates to efficacy of medication prescribed for depression.*

Line 355-357 altered to: *To the best of our knowledge this is the first review to examine and evaluate the evidence on depression treatments in immigrant populations.*

Conclusion
Would suggest moving parts of your conclusion to either the discussion or under your research recommendations-Line 360-374

Authors’ response
In response to the reviewer’s suggestion we have moved sections applicable to research implications to relevant section in discussion.