Author's response to reviews

Title: Validity of a self-reported diagnosis of depression among participants in a cohort study using the Structured Clinical Interview for DSM-IV (SCID-I)

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear editor,

Following reviewer 1’s suggestions we have change our manuscript to improve it. Please, find the comments below:

1. The need to compare a self-report diagnosis of depression with various cutoffs of established questionnaires in terms of sensitivity and specificity.
   We used a categorical diagnosis of depression as gold standard and not a continuous scale. The SCID-CV (the clinician version of SCID-I) is a clinician-administered, semi structured interview where the possible outcomes are the presence or the absence of a depressive disorder. So, we can not establish different sensitivity or specificity values regarding various cutoffs as the reviewer suggests.

2. The debate about the continuity of depression and its relevance to the present focus of this paper.
   Following the reviewer’s suggestion we have added a new paragraph in the discussion section addressing this issue.
   Nowadays, it’s controversial if depression is a continuum (so depression would be a dimensional disorder) or, on the other hand, it’s a categorical disease with only two possibilities: presence/absence of the pathology.
   It is not easy to distinguish the limits of this pathology. However, our paper used a categorical instrument to define the depressive disorder. So, our paper can not clarify this issue. We have addressed this limitation in the new version of the manuscript.

Yours sincerely,

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