Reviewer's report

Title: Self-rated Health and Quality of Life among Young Egyptian Type 1 Diabetes Patients

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Reviewer: Janneke Grutters

Reviewer's report:

The author has performed a fairly interesting study examining quality of life among Egyptian children and adolescents with T1DM. The paper is simple, clear and well-structured. However, I do have some fundamental issues that require major compulsory revisions:

1) Quality of life is a very broad concept, which can be explained in several ways. The author seems to use health-related quality of life and general quality of life interchangeably. In the title he even mentions 'self-rated health AND quality of life'. From the paper I get the feeling that self-rated health is used as a proxy for quality of life but I am not sure whether I agree with that. The paper could benefit from a clear definition of the concepts that are used in the paper.

2) Related to the above-mentioned comment, there are many ways to examine (health-related) quality of life and in my opinion of these SRH does not provide the most valid answers. I would like the author to add some information on why this measure was selected, so that the reader is convinced of the method.

3) The way the paper is written now implies that the subgroup analyses were performed ad-hoc. I would like to see hypotheses in the methods section that can be tested, and I would like to see a related aim (instead of the very general relationship between QoL and ‘various variables’).

4) A SRH scale with 5 options does not provide a lot of information. However, in the statistical analysis this limited information is even reduced by grouping the variable. Why not use regression techniques so that you can use all the information you have?

5) Related to point 4), is the fact that there is no statistical difference found between for example absence/presence of complications not just a result of the study design or power? Is the design suitable to detect these differences?

6) You mention a relationship between exercise and duration, was this interaction tested?

7) Is it not possible that poorer quality of life results in less exercise? Why is it concluded the other way around?

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

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