Reviewer's report

Title: Factor analysis of self-treatment in diabetes mellitus: a cross sectional study

Version: 1 Date: 30 December 2010

Reviewer: andrea beratarrechea

Reviewer's report:

1. Major Compulsory Revisions

Methods
Regarding questionnaire development (third paragraph)
Which other areas or domains are covered by the questionnaire related to self-treatment behaviours apart from demographic characteristics and clinical variables related with diabetes? Please describe with more detail how was the questionnaire developed.

If the questionnaire is an existing tool to evaluate self-treatment, briefly state its psychometric properties and provide references to the original development. In case this is a new tool to measure self-treatment, please include a section describing with more detail the steps undertaken to developed and test the questionnaire. About psychometric properties of the survey only reliability and content validity are described. Please describe if you are referring to test-retest, inter-rater or internal consistency reliability.

Statistical analyses (Fourth paragraph)
Please describe with more detail how exploratory factor analysis was planned.

Results (second paragraph)
As regards self-treatment behaviours, 50% of the patients reported self-treatment and the self-treatment score of the participants was 45.8 ± 8.8. How were these variables defined and classified as low, medium or high tendency to self-treatment?

There is a statement that says "In severe problems most of the patients seek formal treatment". Can you explain with more detail to which are the problems you are referring to (e.g. hypoglycemic events)?

Discussion
No limitations were included in the discussion. In my opinion, results are limited to diabetic patients seeking health care or hospitalized in many cases because of serious complications related with diabetes. As Self-treatment is considered a barrier to health seeking behavior it might important to describe this problem in the general diabetic population. Although this, it is an interesting study as proper understanding of health seeking behaviors like self-treatment could reduce delay to diagnosis, improve treatment compliance and improve health promotion.
strategies in a variety of contexts in chronic disease.

2. Minor Essential Revisions

Results/Factor analysis (third paragraph)

You used the initials KMO, if you refer to Kaiser-Mayer-Olkin measure of sampling adequacy describe it in methods as a statistical test to be used and then in results you can use the initials.

Table 2.

You can include a head file in this table with factor/ eigenvalue/percent of variance and cumulative percent.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:

'I declare that I have no competing interests'