Reviewer's report

**Title:** Use of selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors and risk of re-operation due to post-surgical bleeding in breast cancer patients: a Danish population-based cohort study

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**Reviewer:** Antonio González-Pérez

**Reviewer's report:**

This is an interesting and well conducted study aimed at exploring the clinical implications of known SSRI-induced effects on human platelet function on the risk of re-operation due to post-surgical bleeding in breast cancer patients. The increasing use of these drugs in this population makes even more relevant these results.

The authors used a Danish Database that has been extensively used in pharmacoepidemiological research. The validity of the exposure ascertainment is expected to be quite good considering both the data source and the fact that anti-depressants are only available through medical prescription in Denmark. According to the authors, the registration of re-operation due to surgical bleeding in the Danish Registry is virtually complete, although a specific validation study (maybe based on a small subset of patients) would have been helpful since this particular endpoint does not seem to have been previously validated.

Overall the study is well conducted and analysed. However I do have one small but major comment to make:

As in any negative study the statistical power needs to be assessed and considered when interpreting the study results. It does not seem sufficient to say that confidence intervals are narrow. Even though the size of the study cohort is extremely large (more than 14,000 breast cancer patients) they are studying a rare event and the total number of cases is less than 400. Under these circumstances the study is probably underpowered to detect modest effects. If true this should be acknowledged in the paper. Furthermore the authors should include the results of the power analysis and discuss the magnitude of effects (in terms of RR or RD) that can be safely excluded based on their results.

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**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