Reviewer's report

Title: Potential drug-drug and drug-disease interactions in prescriptions of ambulatory patients in Family Medicine Clinics in Mexico

Version: 1 Date: 11 June 2007

Reviewer: Chunliu Zhan

Reviewer's report:

General

This study examined potential drug-drug and drug-disease interactions in a specific patient population (aged 50+ visited two clinics for non-malignant pain syndrome). Although the findings are not generalizable for average Mexicans, this study provides a candid view of a global problem in Mexico. The introduction was well written and put the findings in a global context, and the method, results and discussions were clearly presented.

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Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

None.

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Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

1. Since the introduction and discussion sections intended to put the findings into the context of similar findings in other countries, it is desirable to also note the underlying patient characteristics to avoid misleading readers. For example, the 25% interaction rate in US (versus 80% reported here) might be because the US study was based on a patient population that were healthier and used fewer drugs. It is also desirable, if possible, to cite some general statistics about average Mexican elderly (50+) -- for example, how many drugs they got -- to allow readers to make inferences on how frequently average Mexicans get these interactions. In general, the authors should be mindful and write that the findings were based on a unique, convenient sample of patients and remind readers that the rates may not be representative.

2. In abstract (p4) and discussion (p12), suggest change "it could be a common practice in primary care level" to "it is common in primary care in Mexico". I'd suggest remove from the abstract "The most important way to lower the frequency of potential interaction is to reduce the number of drugs taken" -- for the reason the authors gave in the discussion (not practical solution for many patients).

3. The last paragraph of the paper (p12) should be deleted.

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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

None.

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:
I have no competing interests.