Author's response to reviews

Title: Increased Risk of Depression in Type 2 Diabetes Is Minimised by Sulfonylurea and Metformin Combination: A Population-Based Cohort Study

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Re: Increased Risk of Depression in Type 2 Diabetes is Minimised by Sulfonylurea and Metformin Combination: A Population-Based Cohort Study

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In this paper, submitted for your consideration, we demonstrate that diabetes increases the risk of depression more than 2-fold in the Taiwanese population. Until now this has been uncertain, or it possible that the diabetes-depression link was bidirectional, with diabetes-as-antecedent the lesser of the 2 linkages [1]. We show that this uncertainty is most likely to be on account of the failure to consider the anti-depressant potential of oral anti-hyperglycemic agents, where metformin is included in combined therapy. The potential of this finding to reduce the burden of disease attributable to diabetes is substantial - a 60% decrease in risk of depression in diabetes over 12 years. The associations are seen with both unipolar and bipolar depression and identify possible commonalities between them when seen in diabetes. The findings are of added significance given the emerging evidence that metformin may also protect against neurodegenerative disease as we have also shown [2, 3].

Each of the authors has played an active role in the research for and in the writing of this paper, as indicated in the submitted manuscript. MLW, MSL, SYC, CCH, and HYC designed the study; MLW, MSL and CCH managed the study; MLW, MSL, CCH, SHY, and HNT analyzed and interpreted the data; MLW wrote the paper; MLW, MSL, SYC, CCH, HNT, SHY and HYC read, revised and approved the final manuscript. They report no financial relationships with commercial interests. Copyright arrangements which the Journal advocates are acceptable to the authors.

We believe that this report will be of considerable moment for your readership.

Most sincerely,

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References