Author's response to reviews

Title: The association between sleep disturbances and suicidal behaviors in patients with psychiatric diagnoses: a systematic review and meta-analysis

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Editor,
We thank you and the reviewers for the excellent comments and suggestions. We made all the necessary changes which made the manuscript more clear and useful to readership. Here are our point-by-point responses.

Zhen Wang

Editorial requests:
1) Please mention each author individually in your Authors? Contributions section. We suggest the following kind of format (please use initials to refer to each author's contribution): AB carried out the molecular genetic studies, participated in the sequence alignment and drafted the manuscript. JY carried out the immunoassays. MT participated in the sequence alignment. ES participated in the design of the study and performed the statistical analysis. FG conceived of the study, and participated in its design and coordination and helped to draft the manuscript. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

Response: We revised the Authors’ Contributions section accordingly in the manuscript.

Reviewer #1
Major Compulsory Revisions:
None. The revised manuscript is well-crafted.

Response: we thank reviewer for the nice comment.

Minor Essential Revisions:
In discussion, under clinical implications, it would be appropriate to provide a cautionary note with respect to sedative-hypnotics to treat insomnia in patients at risk for SI, given some evidence that they are associated with suicidal thoughts and behaviors (e.g., see Kripke et al).

Response: We agree with the reviewer and modified the Clinical Implications section. We also cited the study by Kripke et al because it is highly relevant to the discussion section. We thank the reviewer for this comment.

Discretionary Revisions:
It would be useful for table 2 to include number of studies included in each subanalysis.

Response: We added the number of studies in Table 2.

Reviewer #2
Reviewer's report:
In this systematic review and meta-analysis, the authors synthesized the published literature on the relationship between sleep disturbance and suicidal behavior. The authors used each study's definition of sleep disturbance, which ranged broadly. The definition of suicidal behavior included suicidal ideation, suicide attempt, completed suicide, and any other suicidal behaviors defined by the original studies. The authors identified a statistically significant relationship between the presence of sleep disturbance and suicidal behavior. This relationship was also significant when the authors analyzed the relationship between sleep disturbance and suicidal behavior in the context of specific mental health conditions (depression, PTSD, panic disorder, schizophrenia).

Major Compulsory Revisions
Sleep disturbance is a term that encompasses a broad array of subjective and objective findings. Justification is needed in the manuscript for combining all of these findings, which are quite heterogeneous, into one measure. In Table 1, the authors should consider including the original study’s definition of sleep disturbance (including measure and cutpoint for dichotomizing into sleep disturbance vs. no sleep disturbance) and organizing the table into sections based upon studies that used similar definition of sleep disturbance (consider forming groupings based upon International Classification of Sleep Disorders 2nd edition nosology). If space limitations are encountered, perhaps the column for "Country" could be replaced with the sleep disturbance column. If possible, the authors should perform additional subgroup analyses to determine whether sleep disturbance subgroups are associated with suicidal behavior.

Response: We appreciate the reviewer’s excellent suggestion and we added a column in Table 1 to describe study’s definition of sleep disturbances. We also added a subgroup analysis by the type of sleep disturbances and discussed the findings in the Results section.