Reviewer's report

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

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Reviewer: Constance Fung

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.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

No competing interests.