Author’s response to reviews

Title: To what extent is multi-morbidity associated with new onset depression in patients attending cardiac rehabilitation?

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Author’s response to reviews:

Specific response to editor’s comments:

Editor comments:

Clarification is required around depression history and no depression history, and new onset depression. This is unclear whether it is simply baseline of CR and end of CR.

e.g. “All the eligible patients (N= 109055) with new onset depressive symptom measures (who did not present with prior history of depression) who had pre HADS assessments in CR were selected as participants during the study period.”

And

“In this study, CR baseline HADS depression measurement was used for the analysis and the clinical cut off point of 8 was used to categorize patients into patients with absence of new onset depressive symptoms (<8) and presence of new onset depressive symptoms (≥ 8) groups.”

And

Our population excluded patients with prior history of depression.
Our response:

The changes have been made to clarify that our analyses are based on CR baseline assessments. Please see the introduction section line 40-41, methods section line 43-45, and line 68-70, statistical analysis section, lines 143-145. In addition, we have used words such as attending cardiac rehabilitation, at the start of CR and pre CR throughout the text to make this clearer to the CR practitioners which is also evident from the headline of the paper. And this is also stated in the results section of the abstract, with changes highlighted. Previous studies have shown as a part of patient journey their likelihood of starting CR or having assessment prior to CR is informed by different patient characteristics. This part of patient journey is important because the characteristics of patients at this point differ to those who go onto complete CR. So, this study aims to identify the characteristics of those at baseline, prior to starting CR.

Editor comment:

The authors report mainly descriptive data, which does not make optimal use of this large dataset. Can the author’s run an ancillary logistic regression model with all/multiple predictors and see which remain significant in multivariable analyses?

Our response:

A binary logistic regression model has been added with the correlates remained significant to the result section, please see the line 183 to 203 and table 4. Accordingly, the highlighted changes has been applied to abstract, method, discussion and conclusion sections.