Reviewer's report

Title: Personality disorders do not influence the outcomes of chronic HCV infection treatment in Spanish prisoners. Perseo Study.

Version: 4  Date: 21 March 2015

Reviewer: Patrizia Carrieri

Reviewer's report:

Major compulsory revisions

1. Is the question posed by the authors well defined?
The authors aimed at studying the effect of personality disorders on continuity and effectiveness of HCV treatment in Spanish inmates.

Though pegIFN and Ribavirin treatment will soon disappear - replaced by Directely-acting Antiviral Agents, - the results may have limited external validity. However this study has important merits as it is difficult to conduct this research in prison setting.

I think there is a need for simplification in the different ways response to HCV treatment was measured: rapid viral response, early response, end of treatment response, svr nested in ITT. What matters is whether or not patients receiving treatment were cured. I suggest to focus on SVR and discontinuation as outcomes. The authors should also better explain how ITT was computed.

In addition it would be interesting for the reader to clearly define the relationship between a specific PD and the outcomes (discontinuation and SVR) as the table is unclear: what are cluster A, B C ?

2. Are the methods appropriate and well described?
Please better define all the different responses to HCV treatment (RVR, EVR etc...) how ITT is computed.and subscales of PD (cluster A, B, C).

3. Are the data sound? Yes if the methods are improved.

4. Do the figures appear to be genuine, i.e. without evidence of manipulation?
Yes but there too many tables and figures. In particular remove table 3 and figure 2 as this is not pertinent with the objective of the study.

5. Does the manuscript adhere to the relevant standards for reporting and data deposition?
Yes

6. Are the discussion and conclusions well balanced and adequately supported by the data?
Yes

7. Are limitations of the work clearly stated?
The authors should remove that the limits is the prison population. It is such a difficult task to conduct studies like this and it is normal that the results concern the prison population.

8. Do the authors clearly acknowledge any work upon which they are building, both published and unpublished?
I don’t know. When you conduct a research in prison, many persons are involved to make it feasible. Only one person is acknowledged.

9. Do the title and abstract accurately convey what has been found?
Yes

10. Is the writing acceptable?
There is a need for an English revision and editing of the manuscript

Minor revisions

some names of variables in tables needs a legend.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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

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

Declaration of competing interests:
I do not have any conflict of interest to declare