Author's response to reviews

Title: Major depressive disorder in Parkinson's disease: a cross-sectional study from Sri Lanka

Authors:

Tharini Ketharanathan (tharini.ketharanathan@mh.org.au)
Raveen Hanwella (raveenhanwella@yahoo.co.uk)
Rajiv Weerasundera (rajiyweerasundera@yahoo.com)
Varuni A de Silva (varunidesilva2@yahoo.co.uk)

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The Editor
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Dear Sir/ Madam,

Title: Major depressive disorder in Parkinson's disease: a cross-sectional study from Sri Lanka

Thank you for your feedback. I understand the concerns raised regarding the use of the MADRS. I would like to point out that the concerns regarding the validity of the data generated by MADRS are addressed in this paper itself as we have provided data validating the MADRS scores against the DSM IV structured clinical interview. “At the cut-off of #18 MADRS showed a sensitivity of 89.7% and a specificity of 100%.

In addition it is also noteworthy that the rate of depression was assessed based on the DSM IV structured clinical interview and not the MADRS. The MADRS scores were only used to assess severity of depression.

I hope these explanations answer the concerns raised by the reviewer adequately.

As suggested by you we have added the following to the methods.

The MADRS was not translated into the local languages as it was scored by the investigators. While the interview was conducted in local languages, the assessments were made in English by the investigators. The investigators are bilingual and conduct clinical assessment interviews in the local languages and record data and management plans in English. The validation of the MADRS score using a structured clinical interview are reported in the results section.
Yours sincerely.

Prof. Varuni de Silva