Reviewer's report

Title: The incremental burden of pain in patients with depression: Results of a Japanese Survey

Version: 2 Date: 4 November 2014

Reviewer: Stefan Kloiber

Reviewer's report:

The authors present data resulting from a comparison of patients with depression with or without additional self reports of pain symptoms in the Japan National Health and Wellness Survey (NHWS).

- Major Compulsory Revisions

The description of statistical analysis is not easy to follow at some passages. Clarifications and more detailed and structured descriptions should be added in this section of the manuscript.

The authors apply a two step statistical analysis, (1) “unmatched comparisons” and (2) “matched comparisons” with propensity scores using logistic regression analysis. In this context, the authors should provide the rationale for applying these statistical approach and for choosing these variables for the “propensity score” in their manuscript.

To control for a potential bias emerging from different variables, baseline variables as well as variables significantly differing among the groups (gender, marital status, income group, CCI, diagnosing physician etc.) should be included in the analysis, e.g. as covariates or in a regression model, and additionally in the matching process.

More detailed information about current treatment (depression / pain treatment) potentially influencing the results should be added in the manuscript and included in the analyses if available.

The manuscript needs improvement in language for better comprehensibility.

- Minor Essential Revisions

Numbers should be added in the abstract. Additionally, a clearer description of the results presented in the abstract should be provided (results from unmatched or matched analysis?).

- Discretionary Revisions

For a better overview and comprehension the tables could be condensed presenting both comparisons (matched and unmatched) from two tables in one
table each. This could also be applied for the text of the results section.

**Level of interest:** An article of limited interest

**Quality of written English:** Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

**Statistical review:** Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

'I declare that I have no competing interests