Reviewer’s report

Title: A systematic review of evidence for fitness-to-drive among people with the mental health conditions of schizophrenia, stress/anxiety disorder, depression, personality disorder and obsessive compulsive disorder.

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Reviewer: Alexander Brunnauer

Reviewer's report:

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CA Unsworth et al: A systematic review of evidence for fitness-to-drive among people with the mental health conditions of schizophrenia, stress/anxiety disorder, depression, personality disorder and obsessive compulsive disorder.

The aim of this systematic review was to systematically search and classify all published studies regarding driving for this population and then critically appraise papers specifically addressing assessment of fitness to drive.

Specifically the review aimed to answer the questions:

1. What is the scope of published literature on the topic of mental health and driving and

2. What is the scope and quality of empirical studies addressing assessment of fitness to drive among people with mental health conditions.

Major points of criticism:

My main problem regarding the manuscript refers to the method section.

1. Selection criteria:

The authors give no rationale (e.g. epidemiology - accident risk, experimental data - neurocognitive impairment) why they restricted their analyses on schizophrenia, stress/anxiety disorder, depression, personality disorder and obsessive compulsive disorder. Inexplicably they included search terms like drug abuse, alcohol abuse but not personality disorder, bipolar disorder or manic-depressive disorder. Besides search terms like antidepressants and anxiolytics are included but not for example antipsychotics and mood-stabilizer.
Altogether, the search strategy is rather confusing, not systematically applied and thus can not be comprehended.

2. Exclusion criteria

Why did authors exclude studies with a focus on psychotropic medication on driving performance of psychiatric patients, for aim 2 ?. These studies give important information on driving ability and assessment in patients with a mental disorder, especially when conceptualized in an off-/on design, to disentangle effects of drugs and the underlying disease. Thus, I can not understand the statement that "…( ) … studies ( )… assessing the role of psychotropic drugs were excluded as these subgroups did not meet the aim of containing sufficient data related to assessing fitness-to drive among people with mental health conditions".

Additional remarks:

Introduction

1. In my opinion the introduction has to be written more stringent since the line of thought is not easy to follow at all parts (e.g. the part focusing on a possible key role of occupational therapists in assessing fitness to drive - this could be a part in the discussion section).

2. The pagination of references is often erroneous (e.g. pagination 21-25, 34, 35). One is missing reference 36.

Results

There are a lot of obscurities in this section, some listed beneath:

1. One is missing central investigations in this review; for example, with respect to depressive and bipolar disorder, the following studies are not listed:

2. Another example for confusion to the reader - why is the Brunnauer et al. (2016) study an investigation on "Factors impacting on the ability to drive safely (Table 3)? In this investigation driving status was in the focus of investigations and factors predicting mobility behavior. No conclusions can be drawn from these data base with respect to drive a car safely.

3. The "De Las Cuevas study" (2008) is analyzed for aim 2 but one is missing investigations that have a comparable study-design, focusing on driving performance of patients (in most cases treated with drugs) under pharamcological steady-state conditions ( e.g. Grabe et al. 1998, 1999, Brunnauer et al. 2004, 2006).

Discussion

As selection criteria are not reasonable and not systematically applied, subsequent analyses with respect to the topic of this review can not be evaluated.

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

No

Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

Unable to assess

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

Unable to assess

Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
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Not relevant to this manuscript

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