Reviewer’s report

Title: Understanding the emotions of patients with inadequate response to antidepressant treatments: Results of an international online survey in patients with major depressive disorder

Version: 0 Date: 24 Jun 2017

Reviewer: Martino Belvederi Murri

Reviewer's report:

This very interesting, well-written study examines the patient perspective on ineffective/partially effective antidepressant treatment. The authors employed a methodologically sound survey to examine emotions associated with, and consequences of frustration, among which they found an increased risk of non-compliance.

The topic is timely and quite relevant to clinical practice, both in psychiatry and primary care. The issue of resistance to treatment has been widely investigated in the neurobiological point of view but has also important repercussions on the doctor-patient relationship. Moreover, this study in my opinion indirectly suggests that a suitable therapeutic relationship may be an important co-factor to influence drug response (influencing patient information, expectations and other aspects). The authors may want to briefly comment on these aspects (optional).

I would recommend only minor revisions before publication:

- Please provide some additional details on the random forest analysis, since it is not commonly employed, and on the type of software/package used to analyze data

- Another useful addition to improve clarity would be data related to regression analyses - e.g. one or more tables to be presented in additional materials

- Under figure 1, line 42 please omit the article in "the depression"

- The authors may want to add information as to why patient-related characteristics were entered as predictors in the models (if I understood clearly), but some factors related to care were not. They may be relevant and may be investigated in this study or in future analyses (e.g. public vs private HCP; care provided by nurse vs. physician vs. specialist etc.)

- One important aspect that seem to have been overlooked is the study limitations. These should include the fact that data is self-report, which has both advantages (full disclosure by participants) and disadvantages (patient diagnosis was not confirmed by structured interviews; self-selection of participants and so on)
Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

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

Yes

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

Yes

Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

I am able to assess the statistics

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

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