Reviewer’s report

Title: Trajectories of antidepressant medication use in individuals before and after being granted disability pension due to common mental disorders- a nationwide register-based study

Version: 0 Date: 15 Dec 2017

Reviewer: Simon Rice

Reviewer's report:

This is a well-written manuscript examining population-level data from Sweden regarding common mental disorders and anti-depressant use. The paper has noteworthy strengths, especially as population data is available for all cases meeting the study criteria, rather than sampling. The main finding seemed to be related to very low use of antidepressant medication for a sizeable proportion of the population. The authors suggest this this may reflect under-treatment or a sub-therapeutic dose, which is an interesting finding.

There seemed to be an absence of discussion about the limitation of antidepressant medication, especially in relation to side-effects, which are common and may result in cessation of medication. This may be especially relevant for those with enduring disorders.

Is additional data available on the actual types of antidepressant medication that were prescribed, and is it possible to consider medication type within the analysis? Could there be different trajectories observed by medication type.

On inspecting Table 2, one of the standout results was the relatively high rates of disability pension for those who had not received any specialised mental healthcare. This would seem to be of concern, and suggests that the full range of treatment options may not have been considered / delivered prior to disability pension being granted. The offers mention this briefly in the discussion, but I actually think this is a very important additional contribution of this paper, and I wonder if this group can be characterised in further detail using data available (i.e., a sensitivity analysis for those who had not received any specialised mental healthcare).

Minor:

I think the title would be clearer if it included the term "use" i.e., "Trajectories of antidepressant mediation use in…."

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 recommend additional statistical review

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