Reviewer’s report

Title: The prevalence of metabolic syndrome in patients receiving antipsychotics in Qatar: A cross sectional comparative study

Version: 1 Date: 18 Aug 2017

Reviewer: Johann Brink

Reviewer's report:
The authors are congratulated on a very well written and well organised manuscript.
The Abstract and Introduction are well laid out, concise and informative.
The review of extant literature is comprehensive, appropriate, and informed the scope and aim of the study.
The aim for the study and hypothesis are well articulated.
Sample sizes were determined based on appropriate statistical rationale.
As a minor comment, the exclusionary criteria likely should include women who are pregnant.

The Methods section is well organised and described.
The authors point out appropriately in the Discussion the challenges regarding socio-ethnic variables given the diverse nationalities in the control group. I agree that with the authors that a revised research project with clearer inclusion criteria to control for this likely would yield more informative data in the Qatar context.

The authors correctly identify the high baseline prevalence of MetS in the Qatari population and control group - this likely renders difficult clear findings regarding the contribution of antipsychotic medication on the prevalence of MetS.

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

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

Declaration of competing interests
Please complete a declaration of competing interests, considering the following questions:

1. Have you in the past five years received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?
2. Do you hold any stocks or shares in an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?
3. Do you hold or are you currently applying for any patents relating to the content of the manuscript?
4. Have you received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organization that holds or has applied for patents relating to the content of the manuscript?
5. Do you have any other financial competing interests?
6. Do you have any non-financial competing interests in relation to this paper?

If you can answer no to all of the above, write 'I declare that I have no competing interests' below. If your reply is yes to any, please give details below.
I declare that I have no competing interests

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal. I understand that my name will be included on my report to the authors and, if the manuscript is accepted for publication, my named report including any attachments I upload will be posted on the website along with the authors' responses. I agree for my report to be made available under an Open Access Creative Commons CC-BY license (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/). I understand that any comments which I do not wish to be included in my named report can be included as confidential comments to the editors, which will not be published.

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal