Reviewer’s report

Title: The relationship between marital satisfaction and depression in infertile couples: An Actor-Partner Interdependence Model approach

Version: 0 Date: 11 Apr 2018

Reviewer: Bárbara Figueiredo

Reviewer's report:

I would like to congratulate the authors for their work. Some suggestions are provided that may increase the contribution of the study to the literature.

1) To include in the abstract when the couples' assessment was conducted.

2) To improve the background regarding the association between marital satisfaction and depression. For example, the authors stated that no studies examined the relationship between marital satisfaction and depression in infertile couples, but some studies published in Human Reproduction have examined this association.

3) To better justify the aims and hypothesis of the study. Why the authors hypothesize effects of marital satisfaction on depression and not the reverse effects (of depression on marital satisfaction)? The robustness of the statistical analysis is well justified. However, the contribution of the study to the knowledge and practice on couples' infertility is not sufficiently presented.

4) To better described participants and procedures

   4.2) The authors stated that couples were assessed when they were presenting for infertility treatment. All the couples were starting a new infertility treatment?

4.1) The authors should describe the total number of couples who were contacted.

5) Measures - the authors should include a Cronbach's alpha coefficient for women and for men.

5) Results
5.1) Characteristics of infertile couples
5.1.1) the authors should clarify if none of the infertile couples have children.
5.1.2) The authors described in Table 1 that almost half of infertile couples did not experience failure of previous infertility treatment. What this means?
5.2) Preliminary analyses
5.2.1) As the authors used the HADS-D subscale scores, I suggest they describe the variable as depression symptoms and not depression.
5.3) APIM analysis
5.3.1) Did the authors consider testing the effects of depression symptoms on marital satisfaction?
5.3.2) Did the authors consider testing the characteristics of couples' infertility as possible moderators of these effects?
5.4) To better discuss the results
5.4.1) The findings need to be further discussed and explained.
5.4.2) The authors should include a paragraph explaining the importance of their findings to the literature and clinical intervention with infertile couples.

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.

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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