This is a nicely written article, very precise and short, showing potential clinical and biological risk factors of suicide attempts in a Chinese Han inpatient with MDD. This study confirmed previous data obtained in different ethnicities and different psychiatric groups that in Chinese MDD patients, low cholesterol levels was significantly associated with suicidal attempt. The authors also found longer duration of illness, more psychotic symptoms, lower LDL cholesterol and lower total cholesterol in patients who made suicide attempts compared to non-attempters with MDD. The whole manuscript is written well, with Introduction that covers the necessary data, Methods and Results are described adequately, the statistical analysis is in order, authors also used Bonferroni correction, Discussion is written very good. I have almost no comments that would improve this manuscript. My recommendation is to accept this article after a really minor revision. My comments are listed below for Discussion, suggesting to the authors to cite other data that also showed lower cholesterol levels in suicidal patients.

Minor comments:

Discussion:

1) When the authors are citing studies showing low cholesterol levels in patients, page 8, lines 48-54, please add also other study that found similar results: "For example, schizophrenia patients who had attempted suicide were found to have lower total cholesterol when compared to those without suicide attempts [36], and another recent study found lower level of serum cholesterol in suicidal male patients with bipolar disorder [37]." Please add: "In addition, lower cholesterol levels were detected in suicidal compared to non-suicidal patients with first episode of psychosis (Marcinko et al., 2007)."

2) On page 9, lines 29-36, the authors discuss the association between 5-HT system and cholesterol. They might want to cite the article that simultaneously determined peripheral, platelet serotonin concentration and serum cholesterol concentrations in suicidal and non-suicidal patients with first episode of psychosis (Marcinko et al., 2007): "Cholesterol levels have also been linked to alterations in levels of serotonin metabolite 5-hydroxyindoleacetic acid (5-HIAA) in the cerebrospinal fluid (CSF), which is associated with suicide risk [45]." In line with these data, reduced cholesterol levels and reduced platelet serotonin concentrations were detected in suicidal compared to non-suicidal male patients with first episode of psychosis (Marcinko et al., 2007).

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.
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