Reviewer’s report

Title: The prevalence, metabolic disturbances and clinical correlates of recent suicide attempts in Chinese inpatients with major depressive disorder

Version: 0 Date: 18 Jan 2019

Reviewer: Suhaila Ghuloum

Reviewer's report:

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The running title could be modified to better reflect the main objective of the study

There are several linguistic and grammatical errors throughout the manuscript which need correction. Examples include the first paragraph of "introduction" where it says 'risk factors for suicide attempt in MDD patients have still been unclear', the sentence could be corrected to '... are still unclear'. In the same paragraph, 'unemployed' should change to 'unemployment'. Also, the first sentence in Page 5 starts with 'which was'; this needs to be corrected depending on what the authors meant.

The authors describe one of the main aims of their study being exploring 'possible clinical and biological risk factors of suicide attempts'. However, the factors they explored are not inclusive of all those studied in the literature

The definition of Suicide Attempt they chose is not referenced. Restricting the definition to the intention to end life is a subject of debate. It is not clear if in their recruitment of cases they indeed excluded all those with self harm without the 'intention' to die.

Of the scales used, is their a validated version available in the local Chinese language? The authors need to explain if translated and culturally-adapted versions were used.

Under methodology, there is no sample size calculation nor specification of duration of data collection

The risk factors described and concluded are better referred to as 'associated factors'. In their statement of limitations, the authors acknowledge a causal relationship cannot be established.
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.

No

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:

Needs some language corrections before being published

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