Reviewer’s report

Title: Socio-demographic characteristics and co-occurrence of depressive symptoms with chronic diseases among older adults in China: the China Longitudinal Ageing Social Survey

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Reviewer: Maria T. Caserta

Reviewer's report:

This paper attempts to address an important question in the field of geriatric psychiatry, which is what risk factors are associated with depression or depressive symptoms in the older population? The China Longitudinal Ageing Social Survey (CLASS) forms the basis of the analysis. The tool for assessing depressive symptoms was the CES-D which is not as specific as the GDS for older populations. The main results are predictable in that chronic diseases such as hypertension, diabetes and CVD demonstrate high correlations with depressive symptoms, which has been reported in many papers across different populations. As the authors report, there is no information on other lifestyle factors that are very relevant to the development of depressive symptoms in older adults such as smoking, alcohol use, weight, exercise, diet and current medications etc. which may also affect the expression of the chronic diseases being measured. I don't think this paper adds any new knowledge to the current body of literature in this field.

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Unable to assess

Does the work include the necessary controls?
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Yes

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No

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I recommend additional statistical review

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

Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited
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