Reviewer’s report

Title: The prevalence and associated factors of depression among patients with schizophrenia in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, Cross-sectional study.

Version: 0 Date: 06 Jul 2019

Reviewer: David Misdrahi

Reviewer's report:

Thank you for asking me to review this study. In this paper, the authors, explore in a cross-sectional study the prevalence and associated factors of depression among patients with schizophrenia. Depression prevalence was estimated around 18% and some related clinical factors were found. The strength of this study is the number of subject included (N= 418), and the use of validated tools to assess depression and QOL.

There are several issues with the paper that I will briefly outline.

* Among variables associated with depression, substance use should be interpreted with caution. The authors should provide how this issue was explored. How this issue has been ask to the patients? I understand that this information on substance use was exclusively declarative regarding the consumption of such drugs in lifetime. This should be specified in methods of the revised version and be consider as an important limitation to interpret the results. Indeed, diagnosis of addiction and SUD was not explored and be considered as a limitation regarding the results on association between substance consumption lifetime and depression.

* To assess depression PHQ-9 was used. Some details on this scale should be provided. A cut off of point at 10 was described but 4 clusters was defined following the intensity of depression (mild, moderate, moderately severe, and severe depression). I assume that these clusters were determined using the total score of PHQ-9. This issue should be clarified in method and results. Moreover, all the data was presented in the text of the results. Figure one is not required and should be removed


* The tables are not adequate. they should be presented in accordance with the journal requirements

* In the text the term "predictor" to explain variables associated with depression in this population should be avoided because of the cross-sectional design of this study. No causal results should be hypothesized.

* Given the high prevalence of depression in the study population. Does some patients were
prescribed antidepressants? This information should be interesting to discuss. Does this information will be available in the revised version of the manuscript?

* In discussion: "The chronicity of the study participants included in each study (schizophrenic patients) …" This sentence should be clarify. Does it mean that the populations of studies are different regarding illness duration? For example, the ref. 5 (Chinese study) is only interested in FEP?

* In limitations: "...findings may not differentiate whether the depressive symptoms are associated with the negative symptoms…". This should be presented as an important topic and should be done with the assessment of negative symptoms in further studies.

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.

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 am able to assess the statistics

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

Acceptable

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