Reviewer's report

Title: Mediation and moderation analyses: exploring the complex pathways between hope and quality of life among patients with schizophrenia

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Reviewer: Lars Clemmensen

Reviewer's report:

The aim of the paper is to examine the potential mediating effect of depression and resilience and the moderated effect of sex. The findings is of great interest, to both the research community, and for practitioners and alike. However, there are a couple of points of concern.

The procedure for diagnosing the patients is not clear. It is of relevance for the validity of who did the diagnosing, how it was assessed and so on. Furthermore, ICD-10 includes several diagnostic subtypes of schizophrenia, and a specification of the current sample is recommendable.

There is a general lack of detail in the description of the methodology used. This includes lack of information on how the participants were recruited. There is not sufficient information on attrition or on the recruitment procedure of participants.

It is not systematically stated who gathered the data on the psychometric tools, for example in the case of the Calgray Depression Scale for Schizophrenia (CDSS) it is assessed during a structured interview, but information on exactly who executed these interviews is not stated.

In the section of limitations, the author's state how the cross-sectional study design limits interpretation of casualty. However they do not sufficiently consider the impact on the interpretations, other than the results are assigned less strength. The conclusions made needs to be based on the present cross-sectional design, and design limitations. It is not sufficient to merely state the limitations without actually considering the interpretations in the light of these.

The presentation of the assessment tools is inconsistent. For instance, in the reporting of the scales range.

The language of this paper is at times unclear, and proof reading by a native speaker is recommendable.

Overall, the choice of included literature is appropriate. However, especially in the introduction/background section there are a number of statements backed up by one reference. For instance on page 1 in line 8 to 11.
In page 1 in line 16 to 17 the paper states that "limited studies have focused on the underlying mechanisms among these psychological variables in patients with schizophrenia". However the scope and actual findings are not clear.

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.

No

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:

Needs some language corrections before being published

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