Reviewer’s report

Title: Monitoring patients on chronic treatment with antidepressants between 2003 and 2011: Analysis of factors associated with compliance

Version: 0 Date: 25 Aug 2015

Reviewer: Amanda J Baxter

Reviewer’s report:

Medication adherence in mental disorders, and factors associated with improved adherence, are an important area of research and one for which there is surprisingly little data available. The manuscript is well written, and in particular the authors do a good job of addressing limitations of the data in the Discussion. A number of suggestions are provided below that should serve to strengthen the paper further.

Major comments:

1. Please check the information you report against your references. The Murray (2012) paper does not report an increased prevalence of depression; whilst absolute number of DALYs may have increased, the population prevalence has not changed. The appropriate reference for this would be Ferrari, 2013. There is also a more recent review on prevalence of anxiety disorders, see Baxter, 2013. Both references are provided below.

2. The current description of guidelines for anxiety disorder treatment is overly simplistic. I suggest you look carefully at the NICE Quality Standard [QS53] for treatment of Anxiety Disorders (published Feb 2014). This states that the preferred first line of treatment should be evidence-based psychological interventions (https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/qs53/chapter/Quality-statement-2-Psychological-interventions). You can then justify your focus on pharmaceutical interventions within the context of the stepped-care approach advocated by the NICE guidelines, and perhaps clarify why anti-depressants are recommended instead of anti-anxiety medications.

Minor comments:

3. The first 2 paragraphs of the Introduction could be condensed into a single more succinct paragraph.

4. The first 2 sentences of paragraph 4, commencing "Depression presents high rates of relapse….." need references.
5. I found the Methods section very clearly presented. But I wonder if you could add a brief explanation of the reason for the exclusion criteria around patients receiving amitriptyline?

Is there a reference available for the WHO Centre for Statistics Methodology cited under 'Definition of compliance with treatment'?

6. It seems there is text missing from the paragraph describing the logistic regression models?

7. This might seem a bit picky, but the terms 'adherence' and 'compliance' seem to be used interchangeably. I'd suggest you choose one term and use it consistently throughout (including Tables and in the Discussion).

References:


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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