Reviewer’s report

Title: Socially isolated individuals are more prone to have newly diagnosed and prevalent type 2 diabetes mellitus - The Maastricht Study -

Version: 0 Date: 23 Feb 2017

Reviewer: Eirik Abildsnes

Reviewer’s report:

Dear authors

Thank you for the opportunity to review this paper. I have a few minor suggestions you may consider.

The aim of this study was to assess the associations of a broad range of social network characteristics with diabetes status. This is a well written and important paper of high quality relevant for publication in this journal. I have some suggestions the authors may consider when revising the manuscript.

Background: This section is well described, and ends up with a justification of the present study and clearly described aims. Line 33, page 5: Consider including examples of psychosocial factors, as this concept may include interpersonal relationships and affiliation to social networks.

Methods: According to author guidelines http://bmcpublichealth.biomedcentral.com/submission-guidelines/preparing-your-manuscript/research-article information concerning ethical approval and consent should be included in the Declarations section. I will suggest a brief explanation of what is meant by 'an extensive phenotyping approach' (page 4, line 68), as this is not obvious to all potential readers without reading reference 21. Participants were recruited through mass media campaigns and from the municipal registries and the regional Diabetes Patient Registry via mailings. I miss information about the target group of the mass media campaigns. Individuals at risk of developing diabetes? The measurements used are well described. I miss some information about the development and test properties of the questionnaire mapping social network. Consider to include a reference, reference 21 refers to McCallister L, Fischer CS. A procedure for surveying personal networks. Sociol Methods Res. 1978;7(2):131-48. Otherwise this section is well described.

Results and discussion: The results are clearly described in the text. In the discussion section I would consider to include some comments about other negative effects on health associated with poor social network, and include some comments about the total health burden and prevalence of comorbidity in disadvantaged groups with T2DM. Coronary heart disease, chronic pain and
depression are very common. Suggested reference:
http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(12)60240-2/abstract

Conclusion: I have no suggestions for changes in this section.

Abstract, tables and figures: I have no suggestions for changes.

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.

Unable to assess

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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