Author’s response to reviews

Title: Co-morbidities of mental disorders and chronic physical diseases in developing and emerging countries: a meta-analysis

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Limoges, December 30th, 2018

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Dear Editor,

Thank you very much for the opportunity to submit a revised version of our Manuscript ID PUBH-D-18-01218R1 entitled “Co-morbidities in developing and emerging countries between mental disorders and chronic physical diseases, and between mental disorders and parasitic diseases: a meta-analysis.”

We thank the reviewers for their valuable comments - they helped us to clarify our paper, and we have addressed the issues point by point.

We attach a version of our revised paper using the “track changes” option and a second version without “track changes”.

We thank you very much and look forward to hearing from you.

Best wishes,

Labanté Outcha Daré, MSc; Pierre-Emile Bruand, PharmD; Daniel Gérard, MD; Benoît Marin, PhD; Valerie Lameyre, MD; Farid Boumédiène, PhD; Pierre-Marie Preux, PhD.

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TECHNICAL COMMENTS:

Request 1:
(1) Please change your heading 'MATERIALS AND METHODS' to 'Methods' in your main text.

Response 1:
We have taken into account your comment regarding the heading 'MATERIALS AND METHODS'. We have modified the heading accordingly in the section:
Methods page, page 4, line 13.

Request 2:
(2) Please add the heading 'Conclusions' to your concluding paragraph in your main text.

Response 2:
Thank you for your comment. We have taken it into account and have included heading 'Conclusions' in the section: Conclusion, page 13, line 13.

EDITOR COMMENTS:

Comment:
Following Reviewer 3 and Reviewer 4 comments (see below), we would like to request for you to split this current Manuscript into two.

We would advice you to remove all the information that would go into the second Manuscript from this Submission and submit a revised version only containing one part. Concerning the rest, that will need to be submitted as a completely new Submission, however please be assured that because this has already undergone Peer-Review (as this Submission), we will only need an Editorial Board Member (Reviewer 4) to have a quick look over and then we will be ready to Accept it. Hope this is all clear, please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any further
questions or concerns on my address - eva.szunyogova@biomedcentral.com. Once you submit the other Manuscript, could you please email me? Just so there aren't any further delays.

Response:

Thank you for your relevant comment. We have split the current manuscript in two and have deleted all the information that would appear in the second manuscript from this submission and submitted this revised version containing only one part. Concerning the second manuscript, we will send you an email as soon as the manuscript has been submitted.

REVIEWERS REPORTS:

Kenny S Crump (Reviewer 1):

Comment 1:

The list of countries included in prior meta-analyses (Discussion, 5th paragraph) is long enough that it could be summarized more briefly if needed (e.g., "multiple countries in North America, Europe, and Asia").

Response 1:

Thank you for raising this point. We have adjusted it accordingly in section: Discussion, page 11, line 29-30.

Reviewer 2 (Reviewer 3): REVISION ASSESSMENT FROM THE ACADEMIC PEER REVIEWER:

Comment 1:

Reviewer comments: The authors have made many amendments to the manuscript. However, it is still not convincing to me why the systematic review needs to include so many different diseases. This manuscript should be divided into at least two manuscripts: (1) co-morbidities of
common mental disorders and chronic physical diseases and (2) co-morbidities of schizophrenia and neurotropic Parasites. Therefore, enough details and discussion can be provided.

Response 1:

We have split the current manuscript in two, and deleted all the information that would appear in the second manuscript from this submission and are submitting a revised version containing only one part. As recommended, the manuscript will be divided into two manuscripts: (1) Co-morbidities of mental disorders and chronic physical diseases in developing and emerging countries: a meta-analysis and (2) Co-morbidities of mental disorders and neurotropic parasites in developing and emerging countries: a meta-analysis.

Comment 2:

I cannot understand why the authors added the purpose of this study in the Results section (Page 9). I cannot understand why the authors used French in Table 1."

Response 2:

Thank you for your comments. We wanted to distinguish between the two types of co-morbidities investigated. Since the manuscript will be divided in two, it will no longer be necessary to specify this in the results section. This has been deleted in this first article.

With regard to the use of French in the table 1, this was due to an error. We have corrected it and Table 1 is now in English in section: Table, page 28, line 2.

Victoria Simms, PhD (Reviewer 4):

Comment 1:

I have been asked to comment on whether the paper should be divided into two: one on co-morbidities of CMDs and chronic physical disease, and the other on co-morbidities of schizophrenia and neurotropic parasites. I completely agree. I think you will get two solid, valuable and entirely distinct papers that only share a search strategy. The results of the search fall naturally into two groups. The first is mainly prevalence studies of CMDs among populations with chronic physical disease. The second group is largely case-control studies of
neurotropic parasitic infections among people with schizophrenia. The first looks at an array of common conditions among other common conditions, with no claims to investigate causality. The second investigates a very tight research question about an association between rare exposure and rare outcome, with a causal relationship in mind. That's why it uses case-control studies. They're not reversed alternatives of the same question. They are completely different. A single literature search strategy was used, but that won't be a problem. I would think of it as a final step in the review cascade: allocating each paper to a review topic.

Response 1:

Thank you for your comment. We have split the current manuscript in two and deleted all the information that would appear in the second manuscript from this submission and are submitting a revised version containing only one part. The manuscript will therefore be divided into two manuscripts: (1) Co-morbidities of mental disorders and chronic physical diseases in developing and emerging countries: a meta-analysis and (2) Co-morbidities of mental disorders and neurotropic parasitic diseases in developing and emerging countries: a meta-analysis.

Comment 2:

There is a big mistake in the abstract. The abstract says 36.6% of patients with mental disorder had chronic physical disease. It's the other way round. 36.6% of patients with chronic physical disease had mental disorder. If the paper reviewed a coherent body of literature with a consistent exposure and outcome, this mistake would not have been made. It's very difficult to keep things straight when there are two reviews in one.

Response 2:

Thank you for spotting the error. We have corrected this error in the section: Abstract, page 2, line 17-18.