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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Version: 3 Date: 20 Feb 2019

Author’s response to reviews:

Limoges, February 16th, 2019

To the attention of
Mrs Eva Szunyogova
BMC Public Health

Dear Editor,

Thank you very much for the opportunity to submit a revised version of our Manuscript ID PUBH-D-18-01218R2 entitled "Co-morbidities of mental disorders and chronic physical diseases in developing and emerging countries: a meta-analysis".

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

Sincerely,

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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REVIEWERS REPORTS:

Victoria Simms, PhD (Reviewer 4):

Abstract:

First sentence of conclusion has a missing word - 'chronic physical DISEASES living in'.

The conclusion of the abstract is different from the conclusion of the paper. The paper concludes that mental disorders are burdensome and mental health care needs to be integrated into physical care. The abstract concludes there is not enough evidence. I think the paper is right.

Response:

Thank you for raising this point. We have adjusted it accordingly in the section: Abstract, page 2, line 22.

Similarly, in the section: Abstract, page 2, line 23-25, we have reviewed the conclusion in accordance with the paper.

Background:

Some of the figures on chronic disease are not very helpful. The WHO references seem to be press releases from 2005. The 2016 Global Burden of Disease study would be better. Chronic
disease is such a huge category that it is almost inevitably going to be the world's largest cause of
death. It's more relevant to talk about years of life with chronic disease.

Response:

Thank you for raising this issue. We have removed these figures and kept the study of Global
Burden of Disease, 2016 in the section: Background, page 3, line 6-11.

Methods:

The definition of chronic disease used here actually encompasses most mental disorders as well.
It might be better to list the chronic physical diseases you searched for (diabetes, cancer,
cardiovascular disease, COPD and obesity). Incidentally, is obesity a disease?

'Type of continent' is just continent.

Response:

Thank you for your comments. The chronic physical diseases we searched for are listed in the
section: Methods, page 4, line 20.

With regard to the question: is obesity a disease?

Finally, in the section: Methods, page 6, line 28, “type of continent” has been changed to
“continent”.

Results:

Missing word, '40 articles involving 21,747 PARTICIPANTS' (or subjects).

Response:

Thank you for spotting the error. We have inserted the missing word: Results, page 6, line 32.

Figure 1:

'Excluded for neurotropic parasites' is true but confusing. Maybe say 'Analysed separately' rather
than excluded.

Response:

Thank you for raising this issue. We have amended accordingly in Figure 1.