Reviewer’s report

Title: Cannabis use and the risk of tuberculosis: A systematic review

Version: 0 Date: 17 Apr 2019

Reviewer: Stéphanie Baggio

Reviewer's report:

This manuscript summarizes previous findings on the relationship between tuberculosis and cannabis use using a systematic review. This is a well-written study with a sound and well-described methodology. However, I have some concerns, as listed below.

My main concern is that the authors did not include a meta-analysis to provide further evidence on the relationship between tuberculosis and cannabis use. In the current version, the manuscript is inconclusive, and a meta-analysis would help to achieve a better understanding of the findings of the studies included in the systematic review. The authors stated that the studies are too heterogeneous, but meta-analyses are designed to account for clinical heterogeneity (patients, outcomes, designs) and statistical heterogeneity.

Cannabis is increasingly used to (self-)treat chronic pain. How does cannabis worsen health condition of people with active tuberculosis? This question should be addressed in the discussion section.

The abstract does not mention that most studies found a relationship between tuberculosis and cannabis use. At first read, I thought that there was no relationship, which was misleading.

To avoid publication bias, the authors should search for published protocols and registered trials. As the link between tuberculosis and cannabis use seems quite weak, such studies may change significantly the findings. Therefore, it seems crucial to include them.

Minor comments

Please use "tuberculosis" in the abstract. "TB" is not defined and the number of words is the same using the whole term or its abbreviation.

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:

Acceptable

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