Reviewer’s report

Title: Factors associated with diabetes-related distress over time among patients with T2DM in a tertiary hospital in Singapore

Version: 0 Date: 29 Mar 2017

Reviewer: Francis Finucane

Reviewer's report:

Reviewer comments re Tan et al BEND D 17 00034.

This paper describes a prospective cohort study of 73 Singaporean adults with type 2 diabetes attending a tertiary referral centre for diabetes, who are followed up at three time-points in order to determine the influence of excessive daytime sleepiness and other exposures on diabetes related distress. The authors find an association between changes in excessive daytime sleepiness and diabetes related distress over time. The observation is an interesting and potentially important one. I would have the following comments and suggestions.

The paper is commendably succinct, focused and well written. However, in the abstract, the methods are hard to follow, the population is not clearly defined and the conclusions seem to overestimate the significance and importance of these interesting but preliminary results from a single centre study with a relatively small cohort.

In the methods, the authors seem to treat DRD as a categorical variable rather than a continuous one. Why take this approach? Also, there is not enough detail about the components of the regression model and what variables were adjusted for within it. Were results consistent in adjusted and unadjusted analyses? Also, did the authors consider reverse causality in relation to the EDS "exposure" and the DRD "outcome" in their model? What if DRD influences EDS? Did they make any attempt to characterise the sleep phenotype in study participants? Also, the authors state that high attrition may have adversely affected statistical power, but it might also have introduced bias and this needs to be more fully considered in the discussion.

The conclusions probably over-estimate the significance of the findings and rather than encouraging clinicians to change their clinical practice in light of the results, a more measured assessment of their implications might be to suggest larger cohort studies with more comprehensive assessment of relevant clinical factors, as well as a clinical trial to determine whether interventions to improve or reduce EDS are associated with reductions in DRD.

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.

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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As before, I have received honoraria, travel support and speaker fees from several pharmaceutical companies.

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