Reviewer’s report

Title: Associations of serum low-density lipoprotein and systolic blood pressure levels with type 2 diabetic patients with and without peripheral neuropathy: Systemic review, meta-analysis and meta-regression analysis of observational studies

Version: 0 Date: 10 Aug 2019

Reviewer: Marcin Czech

Reviewer's report:

The subject is undoubtedly relevant for the diagnosis and treatment of diabetes. Efforts of authors to review and meta-analyze so many studies should be appreciated.

My main concern however relates to causality effect of LDL and SBP on DNP development. Is it really justified to state that LDL and SBP are promising prognostic factors for early detection of DNP? I am not mentioning practical lack of preventive treatment strategies (apart from glycemic control as such).

In the methods section and abstract I would add the information that you systematically reviewed observational studies. I would also include a time horizon of your search.

In my opinion discussion section is too wide, it covers many various pathophysiological, clinical and social aspects of T2DM not reflected in the results. One of these concerns an increased risk of unfavorable traffic events linked to driving license. Neither reference nor link to the results is provided. Limitations (clearly and rightly stated by the authors) are strong, do they allow drawing conclusions?

In conclusion section, you state that "LDL and SBP status could be a promising prognostic biomarker for early detection and effective intervention of DPN" - is it really proven?

Fig. 1 is not clear, fig 3 and 4 difficult, even impossible to read and assess.

I would consider minor linguistic improvements: e.g. "(...) reduce" line 34, page 3; "(...) are 1.03 times suffering ", line 44, page 14; "collision risk", line 41, page 3 and line 17 page 5; "collision risk of DNP", line 27, page 15.

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.
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 recommend additional statistical review

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Needs some language corrections before being published

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