Reviewer's report

Title: Correlates of depressive symptoms in late middle-aged Taiwanese women: Findings from the 2009 Taiwan National Health Interview Survey

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Reviewer: John Oldroyd

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Association between diabetes and depressive symptoms in postmenopausal women: Findings from the 2009 Taiwan National Health Interview Survey

Overall
The authors examined the cross sectional association of diabetes (self-reported) and depressive symptoms (Chinese CES-D 10) in Taiwanese postmenopausal women by secondary analysis of a population dataset (n=553). Diabetes, a sedentary lifestyle and living alone were associated with depressive symptoms, supporting the hypothesis that diabetes and depressive symptoms are related in postmenopausal Taiwanese women.

Introduction
The introduction is written very clearly. The literature review is careful.

Methods
This section is well written. Although the psychometric properties of the CES-D are published, I would include a sentence summarizing these. The statistical analysis is well described. Self-report of diabetes is a weak measure but this is acknowledged in the limitations section.

Results
These are very brief (one paragraph) but clear. The tables are clear.

Discussion
The discussion is good. All key findings are discussed in a coherent way. I like the discussion of the bi-directionality of diabetes and depression. Leading on from this, other relevant dimensions that are not discussed in detail are the bi-relationship between duration and severity of depressive symptoms and diabetes. Also, what is the relationship between diabetes and depression (rather than elevated depressive symptoms). Give that not everyone with depressive symptoms will develop depression, would this not be more clinically meaningful. A sentence about this would further strengthen this good discussion.
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.

Unable to assess

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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