Reviewer’s report

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

Version: 1 Date: 19 Jun 2016

Reviewer: Maria Elena Lacruz de Diego

Reviewer's report:

In the manuscript "Association between diabetes and depressive symptoms in postmenopausal women: findings from the 2009 Taiwan National Health Interview Survey" the authors seek to determine the association between diabetes and depressive symptomatology in postmenopausal Taiwanese women in a population-based sample. Both conditions are relevant public health issues. However, there is no lack of publications in this respect. Thus, although methodologically sound, I had a major concern: the study results do not seem to provide sufficiently novel information.

Several other points require also attention:

Methods
1. How do you define "regular menstruation" (page 6, line 17).
2. The information about the informed consent from study participants is confusing (page 6, line 30).
4. BMI, smoking, alcohol and sport are not socio-demographic factors (page 7, lines 33-40).
5. How did you define marital status? And what is the difference between married and living together? (page 7, last line).
6. Which method for choosing confounders was used? Which confounders were taken into consideration? (page 8, line 39)
7. How did you weight the data? Was it age-standardized and only for women? (page 8, line 39)

Results
1. Table 1 should be a description of the study population. There is no need for analysis in that table.
2. In the title of tables 1 and 2 you mentioned "women who had not used hormonal replacement therapy". However in the "response to reviewers" you mentioned that those were all women "without excluding women who … had used hormone replacement therapy".
3. How was done the adjustment for Table 2: significant variables or all variables in table 1? (page 9, line 23). Why are there different numbers in table 1 and table 2 (for example, 39 not living alone are 79.1% in table 1 and 79.6% in table 2).
Discussion

1. How sure are you that "diabetes" in your population reflects only diabetes type 2, or could it also be diabetes type 1? (page 12, line 51)

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

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Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable
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