Reviewer’s report

Title: Antidepressant use and risk of adverse outcomes in people aged 20 to 64: cohort study using a primary care database

Version: 0 Date: 28 Sep 2017

Reviewer: Irene Bighelli

Reviewer's report:

The study addresses an important topic, tolerability of antidepressants, in a large cohort.

Methods are well described and suitable to meet the study objective.

Data analyses took into account several possible confounding factors.

I found some minor inaccuracies in the text, reported below:

- Number of patients with each adverse outcome in the abstract and in table 2 do not match (for example, number of patients with falls in 5 years follow up is 4651 in the abstract, while the sum of events for different antidepressant classes obtained from table 2 is 4511. Is there a reason for that? Was some class of antidepressant not reported in the table?

- References in the text: the reference in brackets should be reported before punctuation, and not after (see as examples line 60, 62, 63… and through all the text); similarly, there should be a space before the brackets (see as examples line 77, 78);

- Line 79: "about" or "in" should be deleted;

- Line 105: "to ensure it was a new diagnosis AND not a retrospective recording of a previous diagnosis";

- Line 211: the authors may consider to add a flow-chart showing the selection of patients (initial cohort, how many were excluded for each reason, eligible patients);

- Line 248: the number of antidepressants associated with significantly increased fall rates, as shown in Figure 1, is 9 and not 8 as reported here (citalopram, escitalopram, fluoxetine, paroxetine, sertraline, amitriptyline, dosulepin, mirtazapine, venlafaxine);

- Line 315: the number of antidepressants associated with significantly increased risk of adverse drug reactions is 10 and not 11 (unless "all others" antidepressants is also counted);
- Line 372: "and other ANTIdepressants"

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 recommend additional statistical review

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Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

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