Reviewer's report

Title: Suicide Attempts in U.S. Adults with Lifetime DSM-5 Eating Disorders

Version: 0 Date: 02 Feb 2019

Reviewer: Emily Pisetsky

Reviewer's report:

The aim of this study is to examine prevalence and correlates of suicide attempts and DSM-5 eating disorders in a nationally representative sample of US adults. This is the first study to examine suicide attempts in DSM-5 eating disorders using a nationally representative sample of adults in the US and adds significantly to the literature. The use of the NESARC dataset, a rigorously collected epidemiological study, is a major strength of the paper. The paper is well written with a clear rationale. The tables are clearly laid out, analyses are appropriate to the questions, and clearly described. However, a few minor limitations weaken the paper in its current form:

1. The authors did not address any diagnostic cross-over of lifetime eating disorder status. Many individuals will meet criteria for more than one diagnosis over the course of their life. Where there any individuals in this dataset who met lifetime criteria for more than one ED diagnosis, and if so, how were these individuals categorized?

2. Please check that the references are correct and match up. The authors refer to one of their previous papers (page 7, bottom paragraph) using citation 37. Citation 37 does not appear to match (not a previous paper on DSM-5 diagnoses in NESARC) and subsequent citations do not seem to match up correctly.

3. The authors cite the recent meta-analysis from Smith and colleagues that find eating disorder status is a significant risk factors for suicide attempts in the introduction. This meta-analysis found that ED status was a significant but only a weak longitudinal risk factor for suicide attempts and not a predictor of death by suicides. Given that the authors only found BED onset to typically precede suicide attempt and AN and BN were closer to 50/50, it would be helpful to contextualize these findings in the discussion in the context of the Smith meta-analysis. It is unclear from the meta-analysis and these data if close monitoring of eating disorder symptoms would yield positive predictive value in national suicide prevention efforts.
Minor typos:

1. Page 6, second full paragraph: Should be "a multi-stage probability sampling was employed"

2. Page 11, second paragraph appears to be missing a word ("which was statistically significant from 50%")

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.

Not applicable

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
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