Reviewer's report

Title: Prevalence and incidence of major depressive disorders among people living with HIV residing in Africa: a systematic review and meta-analysis protocol

Version: 0 Date: 24 Nov 2017

Reviewer: Kerry Dwan

Reviewer's report:

Exclusion criteria

1. Studies should not be excluded on the basis of reporting of outcomes. Authors should be contacted for data when possible and studies can be excluded if the outcome was never measured.

Search strategy

2. It would be useful to include the search strategy in an appendix

Risk of bias

3. Why was this particular tool chosen over for example the ROBINS-I tool?

Data synthesis

4. Why will unadjusted results be used rather than adjusted?

Variables for meta-regression/subgroup analysis should be clearly specified (i.e. into which groups), kept to a minimum and clinically justified.

5. Will any sensitivity analyses be undertaken?

Potential amendments

6. It is not clear why outcome reporting bias is mentioned here.
Level of interest
Please indicate how interesting you found the manuscript:

An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

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

Acceptable

Declaration of competing interests
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