Reviewer’s report

Title: Network meta-analysis of randomised trials of pharmacological, psychotherapeutic, exercise and collaborative care interventions for depressive symptoms in patients with coronary artery disease: hybrid systematic review of systematic reviews protocol

Version: 0 Date: 18 Nov 2018

Reviewer: Javier Ballesteros

Reviewer's report:

The manuscript SYSR-D-18-00327 presents the protocol for a network meta-analysis that focus mainly on the efficacy and acceptability of pharmacological, psychotherapeutic, exercise and collaborative care interventions for depressive symptoms in patients with coronary artery disease. The protocol describes adequately the population, interventions, comparators, and outcomes for the network meta-analysis as well as the search strategies and statistical analyses plan.

I’ve only some comments on the manuscript:

- Authors seem to plan to search evidence by filtering results for English language but they also comment on translations for summaries, thus it is not clear if there will be a restricted-by-language search or not. Obviously, if the authors plan a restricted search they should clearly say so and justify it and the likely publication bias (tower of Babel bias) the review could therefore present.

- It is not clear if the quantitative outcomes will only be extracted for change scores (end-of-trial minus baseline scores) or if trials with only end-of-trial scores would also be extracted and analysed. Working only with change scores would surely reduce the available evidence to combine.

- Authors should also look for clinical trials at clinicaltrials.gov.

- Authors have described Stata and user-written packages (metaeff, mvmeta, network) as main resources in the analysis plan. However they also quoted R and it would be helpful to know also which libraries the authors will use if needed.
**Level of interest**
Please indicate how interesting you found the manuscript:

An article of importance in its field that should be highlighted to relevant networks

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

Acceptable

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