Title: Predictors of aging out of heavy episodic drinking in emerging adults: a systematic review protocol.

Version: 2 Date: 21 May 2019

Reviewer: Ferrán Catalá-López

Reviewer's report:

Thank you for this revised version of the manuscript. Authors have correctly considered all the points raised during the previous peer review.

Please, consider the following minor comments before acceptance of your manuscript.

Abstract/Methods
Line 11. Where: "A systematic search of longitudinal studies…" should be "A systematic search of observational cohort studies …". Please, revise.
Line 14. Please include study outcomes. For example: "Primary outcomes will be quantity or frequency of alcohol consumed (e.g. drinks per week, drinks per month, or percentage of drinking days) and severity of alcohol-related problems".

Background
Page 7. Line 10. Please, delete the word "Objectives".

Methods/Data synthesis
Page 11 Line 9. Please delete "and Interpretation".
Page 12. Line 15. Where: "When there are at least 5 studies identified for a pooled effect estimate, the change in published effect sizes over time will be evaluated by performing a meta-regression (…) should be "Where there are at least 10 studies (…)". Please, revise according to current standards (it is recommended to consider 10 studies for each variable}).

Page 12. Line 21. Please delete "and Presentation".

Page 13. Lines 6-11. Please, delete: "The process of article selection will be illustrated in a flow diagram indicating reasons for exclusion. A summary of risk of bias assessments, study characteristics, and individual study details will be provided in separate tables. The possibility of conducting a meta-analysis on included studies will be determined during the review process, and where it is pursued, the quantitative results will be presented in a forest plot. Potential publication bias will be evaluated as described above, and presented in an Egger's funnel plot."
Page 13. Lines 3-6 should be removed from this section. A revised text should be placed in the first paragraph of Methods section (p.7, line 8 before "Search"), including PROSPERO registration numbr. For example: "The present protocol has been registered within the PROSPERO database (registration number: xx) and is being reported in accordance with the reporting guidance in the Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses Protocols (PRISMA-P) statement [24] (see checklist in Additional file 1).

Discussion
Please, include text in p.13 line 5 in revised form in the Discussion section p.14, as follows: "The proposed systematic review will be reported in accordance with the PRISMA statement [17]. Any amendments made to this protocol when conducting the study will be outlined in PROSPERO and outlined in the final manuscript".

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
Please complete a declaration of competing interests, considering the following questions:

1. Have you in the past five years received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

2. Do you hold any stocks or shares in an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

3. Do you hold or are you currently applying for any patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

4. Have you received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organization that holds or has applied for patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

5. Do you have any other financial competing interests?

6. Do you have any non-financial competing interests in relation to this paper?

If you can answer no to all of the above, write 'I declare that I have no competing interests' below. If your reply is yes to any, please give details below.
I declare that I have no competing interests.

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal. I understand that my name will be included on my report to the authors and, if the manuscript is accepted for publication, my named report including any attachments I upload will be posted on the website along with the authors' responses. I agree for my report to be made available under an Open Access Creative Commons CC-BY license (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/). I understand that any comments which I do not wish to be included in my named report can be included as confidential comments to the editors, which will not be published.

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal

Were you mentored through this peer review?

No