Reviewer’s report

Title: The relationship between physical activity levels and symptoms of depression, anxiety and stress in individuals with Alopecia Areata

Version: 0 Date: 15 Jan 2019

Reviewer: Christopher O'Donnell

Reviewer's report:

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I view this interesting study within the results free initial review.

It struck me that this is an important and under represented group of patients, and that autoimmune populations require a voice.

That said the outline methods though competent offers little in terms of psychological variables that are know to influence exercise behaviour such a personality facets or social cognitive factors. The focus is very much in clinical factors that could have been influenced by uncontrolled variables, how would anxiety in relation top the condition or depression and stress be controlled for by factors other than those related to AA?

Little is know about the participants current or backgrounds exercise behaviour, that would be important to factor out the influence on anxiety, stress and depression

All of the data is self report and little consideration have been given for objective measure of exercise.

Given the range of potential other variables and that the data appears to be categorical, I would have reservations supporting the paper without some of those issues being addressed.

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

No
Does the work include the necessary controls?
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No

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
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Unable to assess

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