Author’s response to reviews

Title: The incidence of depression and anxiety in patients with ankylosing spondylitis: A systematic review and meta-analysis

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Author’s response to reviews:

December 28, 2019

Dr. Ciarán Martin Fitzpatrick
Editor
BMC Rheumatology

Dear Dr. Fitzpatrick:

Thank you for consideration of our manuscript, “The incidence of depression and anxiety in patients with ankylosing spondylitis: A systematic review and meta-analysis” (BRHM-D-19-00090R1).

We outline below, point-by-point responses to reviewers’ comments. With each response, we also indicate the corresponding revision to the manuscript, including where it can be viewed.

In addressing reviewers’ comments, we agree that they have contributed to an improved manuscript. We thank you again for your consideration of this paper for publication in BMC Rheumatology.

Sincerely,

Mary A. De Vera, PhD
COMMENTS

Reviewer reports

James Cheng-Chung Wei (Reviewer 1): Please include all comments for the authors in this box rather than uploading your report as an attachment. Please only upload as attachments annotated versions of manuscripts, graphs, supporting materials or other aspects of your report which cannot be included in a text format. Please overwrite this text when adding your comments to the authors.

The manuscript is well written. I have no further comment.

Authors: Thank you for your review of our manuscript.

Simone Parisi (Reviewer 2): Dear Author, this paper is a systematic review and meta-analysis about the incidence of depression and anxiety in AS patients. This is well written and the material considered has been correctly evaluated with a quality scale (Newcastle-Ottawa Scale). Furthermore, the need for further research in the field of anxiety was rightly highlighted. However, from the discussion and conclusions, there is no clear impact on clinical practice on the usefulness of assessing the psychological / psychiatric aspect of these patients. I would suggest to the authors to focus on the possible therapeutic action that could be carried out on these patients, in light that they are patients who often affect multifactorial chronic pain syndrome. Could a psychiatric evaluation be necessary to associate a supportive therapy? Obviously this is a systematic review and a meta-analysis, therefore a treatment hypothesis is not required, but I believe that to add something to the already present literature it would be useful at least to provide some insights into a possible utility in the clinical setting. Best Regards

Authors: Thank you for your review of our manuscript. We appreciate Reviewer 2’s suggestions of rounding out the Discussion by touching on clinical implications of our systematic review. We have added a new paragraph to the Discussion to address this (page 13, lines 349 to 362). This revision also resulted in the addition of a new references (Ertenli et al. Infliximab, a TNF-α antagonist treatment in patients with ankylosing spondylitis: the impact on depression, anxiety and quality of life level. Rheumatol Int 2012; Anyfanti et al. Depression, anxiety, and quality of life in a large cohort of patients with rheumatic diseases: common, yet undertreated. Clinical Rheumatol 2016) and there are corresponding changes to citation numbers in the manuscript and the reference list.