Reviewer’s report

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

Version: 1 Date: 22 Dec 2019

Reviewer: Simone Parisi

Reviewer's report:

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

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

Yes

Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

Yes

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Yes
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I am able to assess the statistics

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