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PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: *World Journal of Psychiatry*

Manuscript NO: 87635

Title: Depression and sarcopenia-related traits: A Mendelian randomization study

Provenance and peer review: Unsolicited Manuscript; Externally peer reviewed

Peer-review model: Single blind

Reviewer's code: 02445242
Position: Editorial Board
Academic degree: MAMS, MBBS, MD

Professional title: Professor

Reviewer's Country/Territory: India

Author's Country/Territory: China

Manuscript submission date: 2023-08-19

Reviewer chosen by: Yu-Lu Chen

Reviewer accepted review: 2023-09-11 13:22

Reviewer performed review: 2023-09-15 07:37

Review time: 3 Days and 18 Hours

Scientific quality	[ ] Grade A: Excellent [Y] Grade B: Very good [ ] Grade C: Good [ ] Grade D: Fair [ ] Grade E: Do not publish
Novelty of this manuscript	[Y] Grade A: Excellent [ ] Grade B: Good [ ] Grade C: Fair [ ] Grade D: No novelty
Creativity or innovation of this manuscript	[ ] Grade A: Excellent [Y] Grade B: Good [ ] Grade C: Fair [ ] Grade D: No creativity or innovation

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Scientific significance of the conclusion in this manuscript	[Y] Grade A: Excellent [ ] Grade B: Good [ ] Grade C: Fair [ ] Grade D: No scientific significance
Language quality	[Y] Grade A: Priority publishing [ ] Grade B: Minor language polishing [ ] Grade C: A great deal of language polishing [ ] Grade D: Rejection
Conclusion	[Y] Accept (High priority) [ ] Accept (General priority) [ ] Minor revision [ ] Major revision [ ] Rejection
Re-review	[ ] Yes [Y] No
Peer-reviewer statements	Peer-Review: [Y] Anonymous [ ] Onymous
	Conflicts-of-Interest: [ ] Yes [Y] No

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

This study is unique in several respects, including the Mendelian randomization analysis to identify the association between depression and sarcopenia-related traits and a large number of participants from a well-known GWAS database. Nevertheless, some issues still need to be clarified. The authors have chosen appendicular lean mass and hand grip strength as sarcopenia-related traits. Abnormalities on these two parameters is sufficient for a diagnosis of sarcopenia according to the EWGSOP2 definition. Whether the UK Biobank data has any information of the number of individuals with abnormal values is, however, not clear. Secondly, ALM was measured by using bioelectrical impedance analysis (BIA) for fat-free mass at the arms and legs. The EWGSOP2 guidelines state that MRI and CT are considered to be gold standards for non-invasive assessment of muscle quantity/mass. According to the EWGSOP2, the estimation of muscle quantity or mass by BIA has certain disadvantages including the variations due to age and ethnicity of the population being studied and the necessity for further validation of prediction equations for specific populations. It would be useful if the authors could discuss whether these factors could have had some bearing on their

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results. Similarly, depression was defined by self-reported responses to a web-based questionnaire by individuals who had received a clinical diagnosis or treatment for depression. But the UK Biobank has used the Mental Health Questionnaire containing the Composite International Diagnostic Interview for a reliable diagnosis of depressive disorders. It is not clear what proportion of the participants included for this analysis had a CIDI diagnosis of depressive disorder. Another problem is that the term "depression" can be interpreted in many ways, from diagnosable depressive disorders to depressive symptoms elicited by questionnaires. It would be helpful if the authors could explicitly state the meaning of "depression" in their study. Finally, studies based on clinical assessments will still be needed to determine the association between the physical disorder of sarcopenia and depressive disorder in clinical populations.

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Reviewer's code: 04513436
Position: Peer Reviewer
Academic degree: MD

Professional title: Doctor

Reviewer's Country/Territory: Greece

Author's Country/Territory: China

Manuscript submission date: 2023-08-19

Reviewer chosen by: Yu-Lu Chen

Reviewer accepted review: 2023-09-18 13:06

Reviewer performed review: 2023-09-18 13:15

Review time: 1 Hour

Scientific quality	[ ] Grade A: Excellent [Y] Grade B: Very good [ ] Grade C: Good [ ] Grade D: Fair [ ] Grade E: Do not publish
Novelty of this manuscript	[ ] Grade A: Excellent [Y] Grade B: Good [ ] Grade C: Fair [ ] Grade D: No novelty
Creativity or innovation of this manuscript	[ ] Grade A: Excellent [Y] Grade B: Good [ ] Grade C: Fair [ ] Grade D: No creativity or innovation

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Conclusion	[ ] Accept (High priority) [Y] Accept (General priority) [ ] Minor revision [ ] Major revision [ ] Rejection
Re-review	[Y] Yes [ ] No
Peer-reviewer statements	Peer-Review: [Y] Anonymous [ ] Onymous
	Conflicts-of-Interest: [ ] Yes [Y] No

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

it is an interesting study. It is not clear how a validation was done on the a web-based questionnaires regarding diagnosis.