



BAISHIDENG PUBLISHING GROUP INC

8226 Regency Drive, Pleasanton, CA 94588, USA

Telephone: +1-925-223-8242 Fax: +1-925-223-8243

E-mail: bpgoffice@wjgnet.com <http://www.wjgnet.com>

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Reviewer 2

The authors did a retrospective analysis on a German cohort of 119,984 patients to examine the association between CHD and the development of depression. Strength of this study lies in the great sample size, and it is a community-based study. Weaknesses include the inability to assess CHD biomarkers, SES, life-style related CHD risk factors, and there was no detailed information about depression diagnosis. Apart from the above mentioned weaknesses, I would suggest the following problems be addressed to improve the quality of this work:

Please provide a flowchart of patient selection process.

We included the new flowchart as Figure 1.

It was mentioned in the article depression significantly worsens the health state of patients with CHD. The authors have stated the inability to assess CHD biomarkers as a limitation of this study, but after all is there any other way to also have this hypothesis of reciprocal relationship tested with the present data (e.g. the association between depression and mortality of cardiac causes/ progression of CHD symptoms)?

Unfortunately, this database does not include information on mortality. This is a big limitation of the database but it was less relevant for the present work. Moreover, no CHD symptoms are documented by physicians so that this is not possible to estimate the progression of CHD symptoms.

Please report 95% CIs for each HR in the text.

95% CIs were now included.