



**PEER-REVIEW REPORT**

**Name of journal:** *World Journal of Psychiatry*

**Manuscript NO:** 80538

**Title:** Underrecognition and undertreatment of stress-related psychiatric disorders in physicians: Determinants, challenges, and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic

**Provenance and peer review:** Invited Manuscript; Externally peer reviewed

**Peer-review model:** Single blind

**Reviewer’s code:** 05787788

**Position:** Associate Editor

**Academic degree:** MD, PhD

**Professional title:** Senior Researcher

**Reviewer’s Country/Territory:** Italy

**Author’s Country/Territory:** Taiwan

**Manuscript submission date:** 2022-12-18

**Reviewer chosen by:** AI Technique

**Reviewer accepted review:** 2022-12-26 10:53

**Reviewer performed review:** 2022-12-26 11:06

**Review time:** 1 Hour

<b>Scientific quality</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
<b>Language quality</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection
<b>Conclusion</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept (High priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<b>Re-review</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No



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<b>Peer-reviewer statements</b>	Peer-Review: [ <input type="checkbox"/> ] Anonymous [ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ] Onymous
	Conflicts-of-Interest: [ <input type="checkbox"/> ] Yes [ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ] No

### **SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS**

This narrative review focuses on stress and burnout among physicians. I've found it clear and well written, and in my opinion it faces a very important issue. Some suggestions: **EPIDEMIOLOGY OF STRESS-RELATED PSYCHIATRIC DISORDERS AMONG PHYSICIANS:** based on data in the literature it might be interesting to distinguish the differences between men and women if there are any. **THE IMPACT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC:** it is important to add some literature regarding changes in lifestyles during Covid that could also have conditioned the appearance or worsening of psychiatric symptoms for doctors as well as for the general population. **RECOMMENDED MANAGEMENT AND INTERVENTION STRATEGIES:** A table summarizing principal recommendation could improve readability.



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**Peer-review model:** Single blind

**Reviewer's code:** 03526026

**Position:** Editorial Board

**Academic degree:** PhD

**Professional title:** Professor

**Reviewer's Country/Territory:** China

**Author's Country/Territory:** Taiwan

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**Reviewer chosen by:** Yu-Lu Chen

**Reviewer accepted review:** 2023-02-08 01:34

**Reviewer performed review:** 2023-02-14 06:29

**Review time:** 6 Days and 4 Hours

<b>Scientific quality</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
<b>Novelty of this manuscript</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: No novelty
<b>Creativity or innovation of this manuscript</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: No creativity or innovation



<b>Scientific significance of the conclusion in this manuscript</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: No scientific significance
<b>Language quality</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection
<b>Conclusion</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept (High priority) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<b>Re-review</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
<b>Peer-reviewer statements</b>	Peer-Review: <input type="checkbox"/> Anonymous <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Onymous
	Conflicts-of-Interest: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

### SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

Physician’s mental health has become a worldwide public health concern, particular during the COVID-19 pandemic. The authors targeted an important and significant topic. The title reflect the main subject very well, and the abstract summarized and reflected the work done by the authors. The manuscript adequately describe the background, present status and significance of the study. It is a mini-review with good description of methods and clear results. It provided the profile of the mental health problems in medical professionals, and the potential reasons related to the stress and psychological problems observed in the physicians, and recommended effective intervention/management programs to improve their mental wellbeing. The manuscript interpreted the findings adequately and appropriately, emphasizing and highlighting the key points concisely, clearly and logically. The discussion section discussed the scientific significance related to the clinical practice. The disadvantage is that the manuscript focused on qualitative analyses and lack of quantitative analyses, e.g. the effectiveness of the interventions for mental health in doctors.



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**Peer-review model:** Single blind

**Reviewer's code:** 05089997

**Position:** Editorial Board

**Academic degree:** Doctor, MD, PhD

**Professional title:** Consultant Physician-Scientist, Professor

**Reviewer's Country/Territory:** Romania

**Author's Country/Territory:** Taiwan

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**Reviewer chosen by:** Yu-Lu Chen

**Reviewer accepted review:** 2023-02-11 14:48

**Reviewer performed review:** 2023-02-15 20:39

**Review time:** 4 Days and 5 Hours

<b>Scientific quality</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
<b>Novelty of this manuscript</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: No novelty
<b>Creativity or innovation of this manuscript</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: No creativity or innovation



<b>Scientific significance of the conclusion in this manuscript</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: No scientific significance
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<b>Re-review</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<b>Peer-reviewer statements</b>	Peer-Review: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous <input type="checkbox"/> Onymous
	Conflicts-of-Interest: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

**SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS**

This review provides useful updates on the psychiatric problems that might affect healthcare professionals, especially with the recent COVID-19 pandemic. I recommend taking into consideration the following remarks: - I suggest adding some information, if there is any, about the possibilities to measure physicians’ wellness and psychiatric health. - I suggest splitting this sentence (“High-pressured working environments, with excessive workloads, extended working hours, high levels of time pressure, limited resources, and restricted autonomy, have been acknowledged as factors contributing to mental health issues of healthcare professionals, especially doctors, who may also have to deal with medical disputes and hospital evaluations in addition to the challenges of their clinical practice”) into two or smaller sentences. Also, “contributing factors” is more commonly used in an academic context. - The word “doctors” can be replaced with a more professional term like medical practitioner or healthcare provider. - “The survey repeated in 2019 showed similar results, with 44% “feeling burned out” and a shocking 14% reporting suicidal thoughts” - I recommend replacing “shocking” with a more informal and professional word - “Schernhammer and Colditz’s [41] web-based



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survey showed that female physicians' suicide rate was disproportionately higher than that of male physicians; the rate was 2.3 times (95% CI = 1.90–2.73) and 1.4 times (95% CI = 1.21–1.65) higher, respectively than that of the general population"- You should be more clear about the rate of female physicians suicide compared to that of male physicians and the general population. I recommend splitting the sentence into shorter ones. - "Studies exploring a gender effect on the mental health of physicians found that females were more vulnerable to stress-related psychiatric disorders and suicide" - I suggest this instead: "studies investigating the impact of gender on the mental health of physicians". - "There is little gender difference early in the career, but more female doctors than male doctors seem to experience problems later on. "- This sentence can be rephrased in a more academic way. - "Age and work experience of doctors may also matter [35, 40, 42]. More experienced and older physicians report lower burnout or psychological distress than younger physicians due to the independence afforded by experience accumulated over time and ever-changing work conditions and the development of protective defenses in their interaction with patients [42]" - I recommend splitting into shorter sentences. - "In a survey of students at six medical schools in the US, only a third of the respondents with burnout sought help for a mental health problem in the previous 12 months [62]" - I think you should detail when exactly are "the previous 12 months".