

Peer Review

Review of: "Sociodemographic, Clinical, and Psychological Barriers to Medication Compliance: The Case of Patients with Musculoskeletal Disorders in Greece"

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Dear authors,

Many thanks for submitting your intriguing work, which investigates the factors influencing medication compliance among elderly patients with musculoskeletal disorders in Greece, to the journal. Please consider the comments I have made.

Major comments

1. You have analyzed a significant number of variables relative to your study sample size, so this may increase the risk of overfitting and reduce the robustness or generalizability of the findings.
2. You have used the Greek version of the FAS tool in your study. Has the "Fatigue Assessment Scale" undergone translation and validation into Greek? If yes, please provide a reference to the relevant translation-validation study.
3. You have conducted a cross-sectional study with self-report questionnaires. I believe the exclusion of individuals with diagnosed psychiatric or cognitive impairments is necessary, given their potential impact on the accuracy and reliability of the responses. Why did you not exclude these participants from your study?
4. Study discussion: Please provide a summary of the primary findings of your study at the start of this section. Moreover, the discussion of many significant findings lacks effectiveness. For instance,

- You should give a deeper interpretation of the association between variables such as education level, fatigue, and compliance.
- While the authors suggest tailored interventions to improve compliance, the discussion lacks specific recommendations or examples of what these might entail.
- The discussion mentions comorbidity as a clinical variable but does not explore how it interacts with medication compliance. The discussion should address the complexity that patients with multiple health issues may face in adhering to treatment regimens.
- The discussion could benefit from a more robust engagement with existing literature on medication compliance.

5. Another important weakness of the present study is the problematic presentation of your study's limitations. Despite the previously mentioned geographical restrictions on the sample, the study also faces significant limitations, including a small sample size and a cross-sectional study design, which hinder the ability to generalize the findings. Last but not least, the investigated clinical variables, including the state of musculoskeletal disorder and comorbidity, rely on self-reports and not on objective data. This approach may produce significant bias due to the potentiality of over- or underestimation.

6. After the discussion concludes, include another section titled "Conclusion" that outlines the implications of the study's findings for healthcare professionals and healthcare policymakers, while also suggesting potential areas for future research.

Minor comments

1. Please state what new the present study intends to add to the current body of knowledge, outright after the aim of the study.
2. In all tables, provide the full interpretation of abbreviations.

Best regards,

Declarations

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.