

Peer Review

Review of: "Prevalence, Patterns, and Correlates of Depression Among Drug-Susceptible Tuberculosis Patient Enrollees in Ogbomoso, Oyo State: A Cross-Sectional Study"

Paulo Ruiz-Grosso¹

1. Facultad de Medicina Alberto Hurtado, Universidad Peruana Cayetano Heredia, Lima, Perú

I would like to sincerely thank and congratulate the authors for highlighting the important role of mental health determinants during TB treatment. Overall, I found the manuscript well-written and of clear interest to the scientific community. I appreciate the effort and rigor reflected in this work. That said, I have a few observations that I believe the authors may find helpful to consider in order to strengthen the manuscript further.

- Regarding the instrument used to measure depressive symptoms, the PHQ-9 is indeed widely recognized and has been used previously among populations with TB. It would be valuable if the authors could specify the cut-off scores applied to define mild, moderate, and moderately severe depression in this study. Additionally, including some psychometric properties of the PHQ-9 within the sample—such as internal consistency (e.g., Cronbach's alpha) and factor structure—would enhance readers' confidence in the robustness of the instrument's performance in this context.
- In the interpretation of results, it would be helpful for the authors to elaborate on the clinical significance of classifying depression severity (mild to moderately severe). For instance, clarifying when these categories might correspond to depressive disorders warranting professional intervention could provide useful clinical context.
- Furthermore, the PHQ-9 scores might be influenced by TB-specific factors, such as symptoms or medication side effects, which could overlap with some depression symptoms like sleep disturbances, appetite changes, diminished interest, or fatigue. Addressing this potential confounding—perhaps by

analyzing item-level performance or controlling for TB symptom severity at the time of assessment—would strengthen the validity of the depression measurements.

- Regarding the sample and sampling methods, I appreciate the authors' effort in managing a complex sampling design. It would be informative to know whether the complexity of the sampling design was accounted for in the analyses, as this might reveal important differences in the frequency of depressive symptoms across health centers. Such findings could add depth to the discussion. Additionally, providing details about the number of patients enrolled per center, as well as the distribution and number of refusals or rejections, would be valuable for readers and support the reproducibility of the study.

I hope these suggestions prove useful, and I look forward to seeing the manuscript's further development. Thank you again for your valuable contribution to this important area of research.

Declarations

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.